TECHNICAL APPENDIX 4 – LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL AMENITY

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TECHNICAL APPENDIX 4.1: TECHNICAL METHODOLOGIES FOR VISUAL REPRESENTATION

1 Introduction

1.1 The following is a detailed methodology for production of technical outputs contributing to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).

1.2 The LVIA of the Proposed Varied Development included in Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2) is informed by several technical models and drawings. The methods for producing these are described below.

1.3 It should be remembered that,

"*visualisations, whether they are hand drawn sketches, photographs or photomontages, can never exactly match what is experienced in reality. They should, however, provide a representation of the proposal that is accurate enough for the potential impacts to be fully understood*"[1] and that "*visualisations in themselves can never provide the full picture in term of potential impacts; they only inform the appraisal process by which judgements are made*"[2].

1.4 Viewpoint photography was undertaken by either ASH design + assessment or Gray Caledonian Photography. All editing and modelling to inform the landscape visual impact appraisal has been undertaken by ASH design + assessment Ltd.

2 Turbine Locations

2.1 The turbines considered in this assessment of the Proposed Varied Development were modelled in accordance with the dimensions stated in Chapter 2: Description of Development (EIAR Volume 2) as follows:

- Hub Height: 119 m;
- Rotor Diameter: 162 m; and
- Overall Tip Height: 200 m.

2.2 The locations of the proposed turbines are as follows:

Table 4.1.1: Turbine Locations

Turbine No.	British National Grid Coordinates		Base Height (metres Above Ordnance Datum)
	Easting	Northing	
T1	280619	953031	148
T2	281155	952737	179
T4	280687	952437	155
T6	281205	952237	175
T8	280675	951871	155
T9	281141	951618	164
T10	280139	951650	138
T11	280653	951295	159
T13	280144	951050	146
T15	281058	950872	172

[1] Scottish Natural Heritage, (2017), *Visual Representation of Wind Farms (Version 2.2)*. para 96, p22.
[2] Scottish Natural Heritage, (2017), *Visual Representation of Wind Farms (Version 2.2)*. para 98, p22.

Table 4.1.1: Turbine Locations

Turbine No.	British National Grid Coordinates		Base Height (metres Above Ordnance Datum)
	Easting	Northing	
T17	280598	950707	164
T18	281049	950334	184
T19	280030	950461	149
T20	280413	950162	165
T22	279973	949829	152
T24	280781	949792	182
T26	280279	949361	180
T28	279786	949085	157
T29	279022	950112	161
T30	279413	949703	155
T33	279165	949159	166
T35	277397	949254	192
T36	278217	949225	193
T39	277866	949638	177
T41	277431	949983	191
T42	278375	949964	176
T43	278763	949581	177
T45	278263	950529	176
T46	278855	950613	155
T47	278555	951001	169
T49	277856	951064	177
T50	278264	951400	180
T52	277806	951652	170
T56	278297	951962	179
T57	278737	951687	162
T61	279119	952086	148
T69	278372	953507	160
T70	278683	953059	174
T72	279165	953538	132

3 Current Guidance

3.1 The main guidance documents which have informed the technical methodologies used to undertake this LVIA and prepared the supporting drawings and visualisations are as follows:

- Visual Representation of Wind Farms (Version 2.2) (the SNH, 2017 Guidance). [3]
- Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments (the THC, 2016 Guidance).[4]

[3] Scottish Natural Heritage, (2017), *Visual Representation of Wind Farms (Version 2.2). Routledge.*
[4] The Highland Council, (2016), *Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments*.

3.2 The Landscape Institute recently published a revision to its visualisation technical guidance (below). While the guidance prepared by SNH and THC are the most relevant for the Proposed Varied Development, this document is also a useful reference guide.

- TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals.[5]

3.3 Two sets of photomontages and wirelines have been prepared to support the LVIA:

- One set to accord with the SNH, 2017 Guidance[3], included as Volume 3b of the EIAR; and
- One set to accord with the THC, 2016 Guidance[4], included as Volume 3b of the EIAR.

3.4 Location plans for both sets of photomontages and wirelines are included in Volume 3b of the EIAR with the figures prepared in line with the THC, 2016 guidance[4].

4 ZTV Production

4.1 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) diagrams have been prepared using Esri ArcGIS, Version 10.7 (ArcGIS) and an Ordnance Survey (OS) Terrain 5 digital terrain model (DTM) to illustrate the potential visibility of the Proposed Varied Development. The ZTVs have been prepared based on a viewer height of 2 m above ground level in line with current guidance[3], with earth curvature and light refraction set to 0.075.

4.2 Terrain 5 is a grid of heightened points with regular five metre post spacing. The software uses this information to create a virtual, three-dimensional, bare ground model which is representative of the earth's surface. It does not take into account elements above the ground such as buildings or trees. Therefore, while the ZTV indicates areas of potential visibility of the Proposed Varied Development, in reality, not all locations within the ZTV would necessarily afford a view of it. Nevertheless, the ZTV is a valuable tool in both landscape character and visual impact appraisal.

4.3 While Terrain 5 is a product which is updated by OS on a quarterly basis, the design and appraisal model was created using data available in 2019 and supplied to ASH by the Applicant. This terrain model has not been updated since that time. This prevents excessive reworking of models and allows for continuity during the appraisal process.

4.4 ZTV diagrams produced as part of the cumulative landscape and visual assessment (CLVIA) have also been prepared using ArcGIS (Version 10.3) and the OS Terrain 5 data. Cumulative ZTVs have been run up to 60 km from each cumulative site included in the CLVIA.

5 TrueViewVisuals

5.1 The mobile tablet application TrueViewVisuals (www.trueviewvisuals.com) was used to assist with the LVIA. TrueViewVisuals helps with gaining a thorough understanding of the potential visual impact of the turbines whilst in the field, and can be used to locate viewpoint photography accurately. While it enables an appreciation of the potential landscape and visual impacts during field assessment, it is not used for photomontages or other presentation purposes.

6 Photography

6.1 Photographs have been taken using one of two full frame sensor (equivalent to a 35 mm film frame), digital single lens reflex (DSLR) cameras: either a Canon EOS 5D Mark II or a Canon EOS 6D. Both of these cameras have been fitted with the Canon EF 50 mm f/1.4 USM lens (a 50 mm prime lens). Lenses were fitted with a Polarising filter and/or Neutral Grad filter where appropriate to maximise the quality of light balance and photography at source and minimise the need for computer enhancement.

[5] The Landscape Institute, (2019), *TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals*

6.2 The viewpoint photographs were taken in landscape format by a camera attached to a tripod and rotating panorama unit (set to 20° intervals for daytime photographs and 15° intervals for night-time photography) with a levelling base in order to maintain a stable platform for photography work, and to ensure an even overlap for successive panorama images. Photography was taken at a height of 1.5 m above ground level.

6.3 On arrival at each viewpoint (VP) location, a global positioning system (GPS) navigation device was switched on and allowed to acquire satellite positions. This device will identify its location, to the nearest metre, using a twelve figure OS grid reference, e.g. 132807 925438 or NB 32807 25438. In order to increase the accuracy of readings, the grid reference was not recorded until all other work at the VP was completed and the GPS device had been switched on for several minutes. This passage of time allows the GPS device to increase the accuracy of readings through repeated, automated measurements. All GPS readings taken were to a maximum of ±5 m accuracy.

6.4 Night-time baseline photography was taken at twilight (approximately thirty minutes after sunset). The appearance of existing lights (street lighting, domestic lighting, etc.) within the photographs is considered to be an accurate representation of the conditions.

6.5 While at a VP, the landscape architect or photographer recorded the grid reference, ground level and camera viewing height along with a brief description of the nature of view, weather conditions and visibility. The camera embeds details of the date, time, camera make and model, the lens focal length, shutter speed, f-number and ISO speed rating as metadata in each photograph file. A photograph of the tripod position was also taken.

6.6 Baseline photographs were then downloaded and combined to create 360° baseline panoramic images in cylindrical projection using Kolor Autopano Pro 3 software. Where applicable, these were converted to planar projection using Hugin – Panorama Stitcher software (Hugin). All single frame images conform to the fields of view characteristic of the lenses they represent (50 mm or 75 mm).

6.7 As detailed in Table 4.1.2 below, some adjustments were made using Adobe Photoshop CC 2019 (Photoshop) to the baseline photographs. For example, to alter the brightness and/or contrast; to enhance the depiction of the existing turbines when they were not clear in the original photograph; and/or to remove and re-montage back in operational cumulative turbines to face the VP in line with best practice guidance[3],[4].

Table 4.1.2: Viewpoint Photography

Viewpoint	British National Grid Coordinates	Date and Time of Photography	Weather Conditions	Notes
VP1	283185, 941167	26/08/19, 10:08	Good weather, some haze.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast and existing wind turbines visible, removed and re-montaged.
VP2	292003, 937695	20/08/19, 11:20	Cloudy, slight haze.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast and existing wind turbines visible, removed and re-montaged.
VP3 – Day-time	295343, 957116	26/07/19, 12:35	Good weather, bright with broken cloud, slight haze.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast and existing wind turbines visible, removed and re-montaged.

Table 4.1.2: Viewpoint Photography				
Viewpoint	**British National Grid Coordinates**	**Date and Time of Photography**	**Weather Conditions**	**Notes**
VP3 – Night-time	295343, 957116	26/07/19, 12:35 (Daytime photo manipulated)	Sharp with some cloud.	A night-time photo was not taken from this viewpoint. The baseline photo is a manipulated version of the day-time photograph. The light levels of day-time photography were manipulated to approximate night-time conditions captured in night-time photographs for VP4, VP5 and VP7.
VP4 – Day-time	291737, 964451	15/08/19, 09:57	Bright, sharp, some clouds.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast and existing wind turbines visible, removed and re-montaged.
VP4 – Night-time	291980, 964461	08/10/19, 19:12	Sharp, high cloud.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast.
VP5 – Day-time	284158, 965040	15/08/19, 10:20	Bright, sharp, broken clouds.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast and existing wind turbines visible, removed and re-montaged.
VP5 – Night-time	284166, 965031	10/10/19, 18:54	Sharp, high clouds.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast and existing wind turbines visible, removed and re-montaged.
VP6	274862, 961925	15/08/19, 12:01	Bright, clear, some high cloud	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast and existing wind turbines visible, removed and re-montaged.
VP7 – Day-time	269437, 957272	15/08/19, 12:31	Bright, sharp, broken clouds.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast and existing wind turbines visible, removed and re-montaged.
VP7 – Night-time	269489, 957272	10/10/19, 18:57	Sharp, high cloud	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast.
VP8	257961, 949822	23/07/19, 11:19	Bright, broken clouds, slight haze.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast and existing wind turbines visible, removed and re-montaged.
VP9	267353, 928879	21/07/19, 9:57	Cloudy, some distant haze.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast and existing wind turbines visible, removed and re-montaged.

Table 4.1.2: Viewpoint Photography				
Viewpoint	**British National Grid Coordinates**	**Date and Time of Photography**	**Weather Conditions**	**Notes**
VP10	294954, 960923	26/07/19, 09:30	Bright with some high cloud, some haze.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast and existing wind turbines visible, removed and re-montaged.
VP11	288982, 942360	15/08/19, 11:09	Bright, sharp, broken clouds.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast.
VP12	251844, 960034	15/08/19, 13:14	Bright, sharp, broken clouds.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast and existing wind turbines visible, removed and re-montaged.
VP13	305958, 969490	10/10/19, 13:52	Bright, sharp, some high clouds.	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast and existing wind turbines visible, removed and re-montaged.
VP14	320519, 976504	10/10/19, 12:29	Cloudy with haze	Minor enhancement to brightness and contrast.

7 Wireline Preparation

7.1 Wirelines of the Proposed Varied Development's turbines and cumulative development turbines as required, were created for all viewpoints using ReSoft WindFarm software (ReSoft) using the specified turbine model (see paragraph 2.1 above) and Terrain 5 DTM (see Section 4 above). Where appropriate, wirelines were converted to planar projection using Hugin. The turbines in the wirelines are shown to face the viewer with the turbine tip pointing directly vertical.

7.2 To help understand the relationship of the Proposed Varied Development to the existing Strathy North wind farm, Strathy North turbines are shown on all 53.5° SNH compliant wirelines of the Proposed Varied Development where visible, in a dark grey colour.

7.3 The DTM shown in the wirelines is drawn as a mesh seen in perspective. In some instances, this can result in more distant parts of the view merging into a solid colour as the grid lines get closer together. To counteract this, an adaptive grid is used. The adaptive grid doubles the grid spacing every 5 km from the viewpoint. This ensures a simple, readable image is maintained. However, because of the limitations of the project size in Resoft, the terrain model cannot extend to infinity and is restricted to around 40 km from the viewpoint. For this reason, the full backdrop and horizon line visible in photographs is not always represented in the wireline view. Wirelines should therefore always be viewed in combination with baseline photographs and photomontages.

7.4 Similar to the limitations of the ZTV, these visualisations provide an indication of the Proposed Varied Development's potential appearance but do not take account of screening elements such as buildings, trees or minor variations in topography.

8 Photomontage Preparation & Rendering

8.1 Photomontage visualisations were created using the wirelines and baseline panoramic photograph images described above. Turbines were rendered in Resoft and exported to Photoshop, using the wireline to position these accurately into the photograph. Tracks and other structures including the on-site substation and LiDAR positions were added where these would be visible using 3D

georeferenced models and 43D Topos R2 which accurately places these features in the view. Final touch-up rendering to create a realistic image was applied in photoshop.

8.2 As with the wirelines, the turbines in the photomontages are shown to face the viewer directly. However, the turbine blades, are shown at random rotations to provide a greater sense of realism. However, where this would result in a blade not being visible due to foreground screening, the rotation of the affected turbine has been adjusted accordingly to ensure visibility.

8.3 The appearance of turbine lighting in the photomontages is based on experience of similar intensity turbine lighting in similar conditions and is considered to be an accurate representation.

Monochrome Images

8.4 Monochrome images have been produced to comply with the THC, 2016 Guidance[4] for all VPs where cumulative developments are visible within the 75 mm single frame image. Monochrome images have been created by converting the single frame colour image in Photoshop before adding the rendered turbines from ReSoft Windfarm as described above.

9 Viewing Instructions

9.1 The graphic material used in this assessment is for illustrative purposes only and should not be considered completely representative of what the human eye will see. While visualisations can give a reasonable impression of the scale and distance to the Proposed Varied Development, they cannot show exactly what they will look like in reality. This is due to various factors, including the resolution of the image; and the static nature of visualisations which cannot convey movement of the turbine blades and changing light/shadows, weather and seasonality etc. As such, visualisations are best viewed at the viewpoint location to appreciate the wider context.

9.2 All visualisations, whether prepared in accordance with SNH guidance[3] or THC guidance[4] should be printed at the specified size and viewed flat at a comfortable arm's length. The graphic below has been extracted from the THC's '*Visualisation Standards for Wind Energy Developments*'[4] to illustrate how single frame images prepared in accordance with the THC guidance should be viewed.

9.3 If visualisations are viewed on a computer screen, rather than printed at the specified size, they should be enlarged to the full screen height to give a realistic impression. Use of devices with smaller screens, such as tablets, should be avoided for viewing visualisations.

The image should be viewed at a comfortable arm's length (approximately 500mm) and viewed normally with both eyes. The page should obscure any foreground not visible within the photomontage itself. This enables the photomontage to be directly compared within the wider context of the real landscape.

TA 4.2: Landscape and Visual Scoping Appraisal

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 4.2: LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL SCOPING APPRAISAL

1 Introduction

1.1 This Technical Appendix presents the findings of the 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.

2 Study Area

2.1 In line with current Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) guidance[1], the Wider Study Area for the LVIA has been set at 45 km radius from the outermost turbines of the Proposed Varied Development . 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 20 km. A smaller Detailed Study Area of 20 km has therefore been defined for a more targeted and fine-grained assessment.

2.2 These 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 potential significant effects are identified as unlikely, these areas have been scoped out of more detailed assessment (see Table 4.2.1 below).
- Following an initial appraisal of the Proposed Varied Development, it was considered that any potentially significant effects on landscape character would be limited to the Detailed Study Area of 20 km. 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 4.2.2 below.

Visual Assessment

- Within the Wider Study Area, a series of fourteen viewpoints (VPs) have been selected in consultation with (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 4.2.4, below and Table 4.2 in Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2).
- In addition to the VP based assessment, a more targeted assessment of potential visual receptors within the Detailed Study Area of 20 km, has taken place. The scope of this assessment is discussed in Section 4, below.

Cumulative Assessment

- All landscape areas and VPs and routes included in the main LVIA were considered for inclusion in the CLVIA. However, as the focus of the CLVIA is on potential significant effects, areas or receptors which were assessed to receive less than a Minor landscape or visual effect were scoped out of the CLVIA as it is considered that these individual effects could not contribute to a significant cumulative effect. The scope of the cumulative landscape and visual assessments is detailed in Table 4.2.3 and Table 4.2.5.

[1] Scottish Natural Heritage, (2017), *Visual Representation of Wind Farms (Version 2.2).*

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3 Scope of Landscape Assessment

3.1 Table 4.2.1 and Table 4.2.2 list the landscape designations / protected areas within the Wider Study Area (see Figure 4.3a (EIAR Volume 3a)) and landscape character types within the Detailed Study Area (Figure 4.4a (EIAR Volume 3a)) and provide an explanation of those which have been selected for inclusion within the assessment.

Designated and Protected Landscapes

3.2 All designated and protected landscapes within the Wider Study Area (see Figure 4.3a (EIAR Volume 3a)) are considered in Table 4.2.1 and reasoning provided for their inclusion or exclusion.

Table 4.2.1: Designated and Protected Landscapes within the Wider Study Area

Designated / protected Landscape	Distance from Proposed Varied Development (Approx.)	Potential for Significant Effects	Inclusion in Detailed Assessment
National Scenic Area			
Kyle of Tongue NSA	10.5 km	ZTV indicates limited and distant intervisibility from summits and upper slopes	Yes
North – West Sutherland NSA	41 km	No ZTV coverage	No
Wild Land Area (WLA)			
WLA 39: East Halladale Flows	8.5 km	ZTV indicates potential intervisibility within this WLA.	Yes
WLA 34: Reay – Cassley	43 km	Considered very unlikely to lead to significant wild land effect in accordance with SNH scoping response and further consultation (see Chapter 4, Table 4.2 (EIAR Volume 2)).	No
WLA 35: Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest	16 km	ZTV indicates theoretical visibility with some upland areas and valley-sides	Yes
WLA 36: Causeymire – Knockfin Flows	13.5 km	ZTV indicates theoretical visibility with some upland areas and hilltops and valley-sides	Yes
WLA 37: Fonaven – Ben Hee	27.5 km	Considered very unlikely to lead to significant wild land effect in accordance with SNH scoping response and further consultation (see Chapter 4, Table 4.2 (EIAR Volume 2)).	No
WLA 38: Ben Hope – Ben Loyal	14 km	ZTV indicates limited and distant intervisibility from summits and upper slopes	Yes
WLA 40: Cape Wrath	42.5	Considered very unlikely to lead to significant wild land effect in accordance with SNH scoping response and further consultation (see Chapter 4, Table 4.2 (EIAR Volume 2)).	No
Sites included on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs)			

Table 4.2.1: Designated and Protected Landscapes within the Wider Study Area			
Tongue House GDL	19 km	No ZTV coverage	No
Dunbeath Castle GDL	40 km	No ZTV coverage	No
Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)			
Ben Klibreck and Loch Choire SLA	19 km	ZTV indicates theoretical visibility with some upland areas and valley-sides	Yes
Bens Griam and Loch nan Clar SLA	6 km	ZTV indicates limited intervisibility across hilltop areas of the SLA.	Yes
Dunnet Head SLA	42 km	ZTV indicates limited and distant intervisibility from peripheral parts of the SLA. Requested for inclusion by THC (see Chapter 4, Table 4.2 (EIAR Volume 2))	Yes
Eriboll East and Whiten Head SLA	23 km	Limited, peripheral and distant intervisibility is considered very unlikely to lead to any significant effect.	No
Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA	10.5 km	ZTV indicates localised intervisibility within small parts of the wider SLA	Yes
The Flow Country and Berriedale Coast SLA	18 km	ZTV indicates theoretical visibility with some upland areas and hilltops and valley-sides	Yes
Loch Fleet, Loch Brora and Glen Loth SLA	32.5 km	Limited, peripheral and distant intervisibility is considered very unlikely to lead to any significant effect.	No
Oldshoremore Cape Wrath and Durness SLA	34 km	Very limited distant intervisibility is considered very unlikely to lead to any significant effect.	No

Landscape Character

3.3 SNH in conjunction with partner Councils, has undertaken detailed review and classification of various landscape areas and types of Scotland[2]. Nine individual LCTs are identified within the Detailed Study Area (see Figure 4.4a (EIAR Volume 3a)). All LCTs within the Detailed Study Area are considered in Table 4.2.2 and reasoning provided for their inclusion or exclusion

Table 4.2.2: Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the Detailed Study Area			
LCT	**Distance from Proposed Varied Development (Approx.)**	**Appraisal**	**Inclusion in Detailed Assessment**
Coastal Crofts and Small Farms (144)	10 km	ZTV indicates some patchy intervisibility within the Detailed Study Area.	Yes
Farmed Lowland Plain (143)	18 km	No ZTV coverage in Detailed Study Area.	No

[2] Scottish Natural Heritage (2019) *Scottish Landscape Character Types Map and Descriptions* - https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/landscape/landscape-character-assessment/scottish-landscape-character-types-map-and-descriptions [accessed March 2020]

Table 4.2.2: Landscape Character Types (LCTs) within the Detailed Study Area			
High Cliffs and Sheltered Bays (141)	11 km	Only marginal coverage by ZTV.	No
Lone Mountains (138)	7.5 km	ZTV indicates intervisibility with higher slopes and summits within the Detailed Study Area.	Yes
Rocky Hills and Moorland (136)	3.5 km	ZTV indicates scattered intervisibility across large parts of this LCT within the Detailed Study Area.	Yes
Rounded Hills – Caithness and Sutherland (135)	1 km	ZTV indicates potential intervisibility at relatively close proximity.	Yes
Sandy Beaches and Dunes (140)	11 km	Only marginal coverage by ZTV.	No
Strath – Caithness & Sutherland (142)	4 km	ZTV indicates some intervisibility with upper side slopes within the Detailed Study Area.	Yes
Sweeping Moorland and Flows (134)	0 km	The Proposed Varied Development is located within this LCT.	Yes

Cumulative Landscape Assessment

3.4 The cumulative landscape assessment has considered all designated or protected landscapes and LCTs identified for inclusion within the landscape assessment. However, those areas identified as having a Negligible effect in the landscape assessment (for the Proposed Varied 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 4.2.3.

Table 4.2.3: Designated / Protected Landscapes and LCTs included in the Cumulative Landscape Assessment	
Landscape Area	**Name**
LCTs	Coastal Crofts and Farms LCT
	Lone Mountains LCT
	Rocky Hills and Moorland LCT
	Rounded Hills – Caithness and Sutherland LCT
	Strath – Caithness and Sutherland LCT
	Sweeping Moorland and Flows LCT
Designated / Protected Landscapes	Kyle of Tongue NSA
	Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA
	Ben Klibreck and Loch Choire SLA
	Bens Griam and Loch nan Clar SLA
	Flow Country and Berriedale coast SLA
	WLA 35: Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest

Table 4.2.3: Designated / Protected Landscapes and LCTs included in the Cumulative Landscape Assessment	
	WLA 38: Ben Hope – Ben Loyal
	WLA 39: East Halladale Flows

4 Scope of Visual Assessment

4.1 Potential viewpoints 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

4.2 Viewpoints considered for inclusion in the assessment are outlined in Table 4.2.4. This includes those which were identified 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.

4.3 The final list of viewpoints has been confirmed with SNH and THC. The final list of VPs is shown on Figure 4.5a (EIAR Volume 3a).

Table 4.2.4: Viewpoints Considered for the LVIA			
Viewpoint	**Consultation History**	**Reason for Inclusion or Exclusion**	**Inclusion in Detailed Assessment**
VP1: Ben Griam Beg	Included as VP1 in the 2019 Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Popular local hill summit and high point to the south within the SLA. It is representative of nearby and middle distance views obtained from hill tops in this direction.	Yes
VP2: Cnoc Riabhach	Included as VP2 in the 2019 Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Hilltop within WLA36: Causeymire – Knockfin Flow. It is representative of middle to distant views obtained from high ground to the south-east.	Yes
VP3: Loch nan Clach Geala	Included as VP3 in the 2019 Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	View from within the interior of WLA39: East Halladale Flows. It is representative of views obtained from more remote parts of this WLA.	Yes
VP4: East of Melvich	Included as VP4 in the 2019 Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	View from the A836 (NC500) to the north-east of the site. It is representative of worst case middle to longer distance views obtained from this stretch of the road.	Yes
VP5: Strathy	Included as VP5 in the 2019 Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	View from part of the settlement. It is representative of worst case views from the settlement southward and views obtained from this stretch of the A836.	Yes
VP6: Bettyhill viewpoint	Included as VP6 in the 2019 Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Popular stopping point on the A836 / NC500 tourist route. It is representative of worst case views to south obtained along this stretch of the road.	Yes

Table 4.2.4: Viewpoints Considered for the LVIA			
VP7: A836 west of the B871	Included as VP7 in the 2019 Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	View from the A836 (NC500) to the north-west of the site. It is representative of worst case views obtained by those travelling eastward on this section of the road.	Yes
VP8: Sgor Chaonasaid	Included as VP8 in the 2019 Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Hilltop within the Kyle of Tongue NSA and WLA38: Ben Hope – Ben Loyal. It is representative of middle to distant views obtained from high ground to the west.	Yes
VP9: Creag na h-Iolaire	Included as VP9 in the 2019 Scoping Report. Subject to a small degree of micro-siting.	Hilltop within WLA35: Ben Kilbreck – Armine Forest. It is representative of views obtained from high ground to the south-west.	Yes
VP10: Beinn Ratha	Requested by THC at the Pre-Application Meeting and in the Pre-Application Meeting Response and agreed by ASH as a good, representative VP.	View obtained from hilltop within WLA39: East Halladale Flows. It is representative of elevated near to middle distance views to the east.	Yes
VP11: Forsinard	Requested by THC in its Scoping Response to the 2019 Scoping Report and agreed by ASH as a good, representative VP. The position was adjusted as mature vegetation obscured the view from the area immediately around the station.	View obtained from cattle grid to the south of Forsinard Station building on the A897. It is representative of potential views obtained from the settlement around the station, railway out of the north / west facing windows, and potential views from this stretch of the B897 when traveling northward.	Yes
VP12: Moine House	Requested by THC in its Scoping Response to the 2019 Scoping Report and agreed by ASH as a good representative VP.	Marked tourist stopping point along the A836 (NC500). It is representative of distant views obtained from this part of the obtained by those traveling eastward.	Yes
VP13: A836 near Midddleton	Requested by THC in its Scoping Response to the 2019 Scoping Report and agreed with ASH through ongoing consultation as representative of westward views from the A836.	Farm access point along the A836. It is representative of middle to distant views from this part of the route obtained by those traveling westward, particularly from Thurso.	Yes
VP14: Dunnet Head	Requested by THC in its scoping response to the 2019 Scoping Report and agreed with ASH through ongoing consultation.	Popular tourist stopping point along the north coast. It is representative of very distant (45+ km) views obtained from the north-east.	Yes
Area between Dounreay and Hill of Forss	Requested by THC in its Scoping Response to the 2019 Scoping Report but ruled out in favour of VP13 in agreement with THC.	Three VPs suggested within this area (30+ km to the west) with similar views and it was considered that these could be represented by one VP. VP13	No

Table 4.2.4: Viewpoints Considered for the LVIA			
		was chosen as it was the nearest and would represent worst case scenario views obtained from this area.	
Higher ground from Mountpleasant to North Watten Moss	Requested by THC in its Scoping Response to the 2019 Scoping Report but ruled out in favour of VP13 in agreement with THC.	Three VPs suggested within this area (30+ km to the east) with similar views and it was considered that these could be represented by one VP. VP13 was chosen as it was the nearest and would represent worst case scenario views obtained from this area.	No
Ben Hope	Requested by THC in its Scoping Response to the 2019 Scoping Report but ruled out in favour of VP8 and VP12 in agreement with THC	It was considered that VP8 and VP12 would provide similar, and nearer views obtained from this part of the Wider Study Area (20+ km to the west).	No

Routes

4.4 The visual effects on travellers using routes has been considered within the Detailed Study Area. The visual assessment considers receptors on major routes (A-Roads and B-Roads) and recreational routes identified within the 20 km Detailed Study Area (see Figure 4.5c (EIAR Volume 3a). The majority of unclassified minor roads within the Detailed Study Area are local access roads to residential properties, as such they are covered by the settlements listed below and are therefore scoped out of the detailed route receptor assessment. There are numerous core paths within the Detailed Study Area, however, visibility on the majority of these is limited or is covered by one of the settlements listed below and they and therefore been scoped out.

4.5 Receptors on the following routes are included in the visual assessment (see Technical Appendix 4.4 (EIAR Volume 4) for full descriptions):

- A836 – Between Tongue and the eastern edge of Detailed Study Area (NC500/ Cycle Route 1);
- A836 – From Tongue south to the edge of the Detailed Study Area;
- A897;
- B871 (north);
- B871 (south);
- B873;
- Far North Railway Line;
- Scottish Hill Track 344 – Strath Halladale (Trantlebeg) to Strathy;
- Scottish Hill Track 342 – Crask Inn to Badanloch Lodge;
- Scottish Hill Track 343 – Halkirk to Forsinain or Braemore (Forsinain to Altnabrec section);
- Core Path SU04.02 – Torrisdale – Invernaver, Coast Route;
- Core Path SU04.04 – Clachan Burn (Bettyhill to Bettyhill Community Turbines Loop);
- Core Path SU04.05 – Kirtomy – Cnoc Mor circuit; and
- Core Path SU24.05 – Ben Tongue Circuit.

Residential Locations and Settlements

4.6 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.

4.7 A review of residential areas and settlements within the Detailed Study Area in relation to the ZTV shows that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development would be limited (see Figure 4.5c (EIAR Volume 3a)). Receptors at the following settlements are included in the visual assessment (see Technical Appendix 4.4 (EIAR Volume 4) for full descriptions).

- Strathy (north of the A836 and east of the River Strathy);
- Strathy (south of the A836 and east of the River Strathy);
- Strathy (west of the River Strathy);
- Strathy Point;
- Baligill;
- Brawl;
- Lednagullin;
- Crask / Farr;
- Modsary / Skerray;
- Skelpick; and
- Forsinard.

4.8 The ZTV indicates that there would be no view or very limited visibility from other settlements, residential areas or crofting communities in the Detailed Study Area. As such these have been scoped out of the detailed assessment.

Cumulative Visual Assessment

4.9 The cumulative visual assessment has considered all VPs, routes and settlements identified for inclusion within the landscape assessment. However, where visual effects (for the Proposed Varied 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 4.2.5.

Table 4.2.5: VPs and Routes Included in the Cumulative Visual Assessment	
Receptor Location	**Name**
Viewpoints	VP1: Ben Griam Beg
	VP2: Cnoc Riabhach
	VP3: Loch nan Clach Geala
	VP4: East of Melvich
	VP5: Strathy
	VP6: Bettyhill viewpoint
	VP7: A836 west of the B871
	VP8: Sgor Chaonasaid
	VP9: Creag na h-Iolaire
	VP10: Beinn Ratha
	VP11: Forsinard
Routes	A836 (Tongue – eastern edge of Detailed Study Area) (NC500/ Cycle Route 1)
	A836 Tongue south to the edge of the Detailed Study Area
	A897

Table 4.2.5: VPs and Routes Included in the Cumulative Visual Assessment	
	B871 (North)
	Scottish Hill Track 344: Strath Halladale (Trantlebeg) to Strathy
	Scottish Hill Track 343 Halkirk to Forsinain or Braemore
	Core Path SU04.02 – Torrisdale – Invernaver, Coast Route
	Core Path SU04.04 – Clachan Burn (Bettyhill to Bettyhill Community Turbines Loop)
	Core Path SU04.05 – Kirtomy – Cnoc Mor circuit
	Core Path SU24.05 – Ben Tongue Circuit
Settlements	Strathy (North of the A836 and east of the River Strathy)
	Strathy (South of the A836 and East of the River Strathy)
	Strathy Point
	Baligill
	Lednagullin
	Crask / Farr
	Modsary / Skerray

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TA 4.3: Landscape Assessment Tables

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 4.3: LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT TABLES

1 Introduction

1.1 The tables contained in this Technical Appendix comprise an assessment of statutory designated landscapes, landscapes otherwise protected by the planning system and landscape character types (LCTs) as identified in the baseline review as potentially experiencing landscape effects as a result of the Proposed Varied Development (as illustrated in Figure 4.3a: Designated and Protected Landscapes with ZTV and Figure 4.4b: Landscape Character Types with ZTV (EIAR Volume 3a)):

- National Context
  - National Scenic Areas (NSAs); and
  - Wild Land Areas (WLAs).
- Local Context
  - Special Landscape Areas (SLAs); and
  - Landscape Character Types (LCTs).

1.2 The assessments of Designated and Protected Landscapes within the 45 km Wider Study Area and LCTs within the 20 km Detailed Study Area, included in the following tables, are in accordance with methodology outlined in Section 4.4 of the EIAR (see Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2)).

1.3 A detailed assessment of the East Halladale Flows Wild Land Area (WLA39) is provided separately, in Technical Appendix 4.9: Wild Land Assessment for East Halladale Flows Wild Land Area (EIAR Volume 4), as agreed through the consultation process noted in Table 4.2 of Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2).

1.4 The assessment of designated and protected landscapes gives consideration to effects on landscape character and identifies Special Qualities (identified in the NSA and SLAs) and Key Qualities (identified in WLAs). Conclusions made during the assessment of LCTs (see Section 4 of this Technical Appendix) are used to feed into this assessment. Evaluation of sensitivity to development of the type proposed and magnitude of change has been undertaken for all relevant Special Qualities / Key Qualities.

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

- The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas[1];
- SNH and Cairngorms National Park Authority Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities[2]; and
- Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas – Technical Guidance[3].

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

1.7 Where LCTs also comprise Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) included in The Highland Council's Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance: Part 2b Highland Strategic Capacity[4] (OWESG: Part 2b), these are referenced and have been considered in the assessment.

[1] Scottish Natural Heritage, (2010), *SNH Commissioned Report 374 – The Special Qualities of the National Scenic Areas*
[2] Scottish Natural Heritage and Cairngorms National Park Authority (2018): *Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities (Working Draft 11).*
[3] Scottish Natural Heritage (2014b): *SNH's Mapping of Scotland's Wildness and Wild Land: Non-technical Description of the Methodology.*
[4] The Highland Council (2017) *Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance: Part 2b Highland Strategic Capacity*.

1.8 This assessment does not include cumulative landscape effects which are discussed in Technical Appendix 4.6 (EIAR Volume 4).

2 National Context

Table 4.3.1: Kyle of Tongue [NSA]

Landscape Baseline				
Landscape Designation Description	The Kyle of Tongue NSA includes Ben Hope and Ben Loyal, two of the most notable mountains in the north of Scotland. They both rise above the lochs and have distinct profiles in the form of a stately succession of granite peaks. Their presence provides a sense of place, forming a boundary between the inhabited coast and generally uninhabited interior. They are accentuated by the constantly changing character of the Kyle of Tongue, varied patterns of settlements, and the coastal scenery. The Kyle itself shows an array of light and texture due to the tides, pattern of wind and waves, and the reflection of the sun. The area's rich and varied coastal scenery includes soft landscapes of sand, and mud, and harder landscapes of rock and cliff. Torrisdale Bay is one of the highlights of the area. The combination of the granite peaks of the bens, indented bays and sandy beaches along the coastline make for a compelling landscape.			
Landscape Value	This landscape is an NSA. The relationship and interplay between the inhabited coast, distinct mountains and wild interior moorland form a valued landscape. While certain infrastructure within the area may present detracting features, these do little to detract from the overall value of the landscape. Landscape Value is considered to be **High**.			
Assessment of Landscape Effects on Special Qualities				
Key Quality		**Sensitivity**	**Potential Effects**	**Magnitude of Change**
An ever-present backdrop of mountains				
• Ben Hope and Ben Loyal stand isolated above the open moorland.		High	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen from upland areas and hilltops as part of the surrounding landscape context to the east. It is approximately 15 km from Ben Loyal and 25 km from Ben Hope. As such it would appear relatively distant and beyond the boundary of the NSA and therefore unlikely to affect appreciation of the relationship between the hills and the open moorland.	Negligible
• Each has a distinct profile.		Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen from upland areas and hilltops as part of the surrounding landscape context to the east. It would appear distant and well beyond the boundary of the NSA and therefore unlikely to affect appreciation of the distinctive profiles.	Negligible
• They have a timeless and lofty presence forming an ever-present backdrop and landmarks over a wide area.		Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen from upland areas and hilltops as part of the surrounding landscape context to the east. It would appear relatively distant and beyond the boundary of the NSA and therefore unlikely to affect appreciation of the roll of the hills as a backdrop for the wider area.	Negligible

Table 4.3.1: Kyle of Tongue [NSA]			
• They provide the whole locality with a sense of place and symbolise the boundary between the populated coast and the wild and generally uninhabited interior.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would appear in distant views from upland areas and hilltops as part of the wider landscape context. While the turbines would be set away from the coast, they would be seen in the context of other operational turbines and therefore while perceptible they are considered unlikely to distract from the relationship between the populated coast and the uninhabited interior.	Low
The Kyle – A link from an inhabited coast to a wild, moorland			
• The Kyle of Tongue appears as a green, inhabited oasis on the exposed north coast of Scotland.	Medium	There would be no intervisibility with the Kyle of Tongue itself.	Negligible
• It brings the sea and settlement well inland, into the heart of the interior.	Medium	There would be no intervisibility with the Kyle of Tongue itself.	Negligible
• Human presence is centred on or near the coast. In contrast the sweeping moorland and mountain is a wild and remote land of heather, bog, loch, river and burn; of rock, crag and high mountain corrie.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would not directly affect the sweeping moorland and mountain area of the NSA. The Proposed Varied Development would appear in distant views as part of the wider landscape context. While the turbines would be set away from the coast, they would be seen in the context of other operational turbines and therefore while perceptible they are considered unlikely to distract from the relationship between the coast and the moorland within the NSA.	Low
Scale, from domestic to monumental			
• Marked contrast between small domestic scale of crofting and other activities around the coast and the monumental landscape of the mountains to the south and open ocean to the north.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would appear in distant views from upland areas and hilltops of the wider landscape context beyond the NSA. It would not lead to any direct changes to the landscape and therefore would be unlikely to affect the contrasting scales.	Low
The constantly changing character of the Kyle			
• The diversity and variety of light and textures of across the water and the shores provides a dynamic foreground to the surrounding moors and mountains.	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to noticeably affect this dynamic sense of change when moving through the landscape but would become one of the features occasionally seen within the diverse backdrop.	Negligible
Rich variety of coastal scenery			

Table 4.3.1: Kyle of Tongue [NSA]			
• The area exhibits both soft landscapes of sand and mud and harder landscapes of rock and cliffs.	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would not directly affect either the soft or hard landscapes of the NSA.	Negligible
Distinct pattern of settlement			
• Patterns of modern and historic settlement and land use are often clearly visible. These include crofting townships, shooting lodges and sheep farms and the designed landscape surrounding Tongue House.	Medium	No changes would occur to any current or historic settlement patterns.	Negligible
• The presence of chambered cairns and brochs illustrates that people have occupied this land for many centuries.	Medium	While some turbines could be visible from some historic features this would be unlikely to hinder the ability to understand or appreciate their role as part of the historic settlement of the area.	Negligible

Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape. Distinctive mountain summits, rich coastal scenery and wild characteristics are likely to lead to a notable susceptibility to change with potential for wind turbines to become highly prominent and character defining. Landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed is therefore considered to be **High**.
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this landscape. The ZTV indicates that intervisibility with the Proposed Varied Development would be limited to higher elevations of eastward facing ridgelines and summits. Much of the area affected is already intervisible with either the operational Bettyhill or Strathy North turbines. The ZTV indicates some potential new areas of visibility particularly around Am Meall and Loch a' Bhualaidh. The increased number of turbines within the landscape may result in a perceptible ranging to noticeable change. Taking into account that the majority of the NSA would be unaffected and the Negligible or Low magnitude of change to Special Qualities, the overall magnitude of change for the NSA would be **Low** during construction and operation.
Effect Significance	Effects on this NSA would be localised and indirect, resulting from the appearance of turbines within the wider context. These would virtually always be seen in the context of existing turbines, and where not, would comprise only a very small part of a very expansive surrounding skyline, and would appear at a distance and of a scale considered unlikely to be distracting. Although the Proposed Varied Development would introduce wind turbines as a new feature in parts of the wider visual context of this landscape, this is considered unlikely to influence the Special Qualities or characteristics of the NSA due to the clear visual separation. The effect significance would therefore be considered to be **Negligible** (not significant) during construction and operation.

3 Local Context

Table 4.3.2: Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra [SLA]			
Landscape Baseline			
Landscape Designation Description	The SLA lies along the north coast of Sutherland from Bettyhill in the west to Melvich in the east. It is recognised for its indented coastline of rocky headlands, sheltered bays, and diverse landscape of moorland and crofts. The changing light conditions and weather combined with the diverse coastline give the area a sense of space and dynamism. Expansive views across the sea to Orkney, and down the coast to Cape Wrath and Dunnet Head can be obtained during good weather conditions. While settlement within the SLA occurs in isolated patches, a pattern of historic and modern development is present. Crofting and farming are confined to the intimate slopes around the sheltered bays, which contrast with both the simple inland landscape and vegetation and the dramatic headlands. The remains of Borve Castle, as well as traditional netting stations, and the Strathy lighthouse are notable features of the area.		
Landscape Value	This SLA offers impressive views of the dynamic interplay between the coastline and the sea. The resulting landscape is an intricate mosaic of calm and tranquil bays and harsh headlands. The accessibility of opportunities to experience the sea's force and scale in close proximity form a valuable part of the overall landscape. Landscape Value is considered to be **High**.		
Assessment of Landscape Effects on Special Qualities			
Key Quality	**Sensitivity**	**Potential Effects**	**Magnitude of Change**
Dramatically Intricate Coastline and Forceful Sea			
• Distinctive stretch of rocky coastline, deeply eroded to form a complex assemblage of headlands, cliffs, promontories, stacks, arches, caves and ravines.	High	The coastline is typically viewed from cliff tops and enclosed sandy beaches or from the sea by passing vessels. Although the Proposed Varied Development would form a perceptible addition within expansive views inland from parts of the SLA, these would be limited and it would be seen in the context of other operational turbines. As such it would be unlikely to affect appreciation of the distinctive geology, topography or open views of the coastline and out to sea.	Low
• The coast can be awe-inspiring particularly during extreme weather or heavy oceanic swells. Access allows opportunities to experience the sea's force and scale at close proximity.	Low	The Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to affect any appreciation of the landscape relating to weather conditions.	Negligible
• The sandy bays provide a focussed tranquil setting contrasting to the experience of the harsher cliffs and headlands.	High	As there would be very limited visibility of the Proposed Varied Development from the sandy bays it is unlikely to affect the contrasting experience they provide for the harsher cliffs and headlands.	Negligible
• The lighthouse at Strathy is a popular attraction to visitors.	Medium	There would be no intervisibility with the lighthouse at Strathy.	Negligible

Table 4.3.2: Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra [SLA]			
• Traditional netting stations are still notable around Strathy Point and the sheltered harbour at Portskerra is still well-used.	Low	The Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to affect appreciation of traditional netting stations. There would be no intervisibility with Portskerra.	Negligible
Moorland and Crofting Mosaic			
• Rolling landforms trending towards the coast and opening out over bays provide a distinctive contrast of sequential views and experience of the landscape	Medium	There would be limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development from the SLA. While it would form a perceptible addition to some views inland from parts of the SLA it would not directly affect this landscape and would therefore be unlikely to result in a perceptible change to the contrasting sequential experiences of the landscape.	Low
• There is a rich tapestry of moorland and crofting settlements creating a diverse mix of colour, texture and form.	Medium	Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development would be limited within the SLA. While it would form a localised perceptible addition to the wider landscape context, it would become one of the features occasionally seen within the diverse pattern of this landscape.	Low
Big Skies and Extensive Views			
• The combination of big skies, distinctive coastal light and changing weather conditions create a sense of immense space and dynamism.	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to noticeably affect this dynamic sense of place when moving through the landscape but would become one of the features occasionally seen within the diverse backdrop.	Low
• Fine conditions allow impressive and extensive views to Orkney and along the coast to Cape Wrath and Dunnet Head. In contrast poor weather restricts views and highlights the sense of remoteness.	Low	The Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to affect appreciation of the landscape relating to weather conditions.	Negligible
• The Dounreay Power Station features prominently in views from Strathy Point.	Low	There would be no intervisibility with Strathy Point.	Negligible
Historical Dimension			
• The remains of Borve Castle are still visible and are one of the few surviving medieval defended promontory forts on this part of the North Coast.	Medium	There would be no intervisibility with Borve Castle.	Negligible
Assessment of Landscape Effects			

Table 4.3.2: Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra [SLA]	
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape. Development on or near the exposed cliff tops, tall vertical structures or large- scale buildings visible along the coast could interrupt the views along the coast and the domestic scale of existing development. Landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed would therefore be considered to be **Medium**
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this landscape. The ZTV indicates that intervisibility of the Proposed Varied Development would be scattered and largely limited to south facing views from the elevated dunes along the coast. Views from these areas are already affected by the operational Bettyhill and / or Strathy North turbines. The increased number of turbines within the landscape could result in a perceptible ranging to noticeable change. Taking into account that the majority of the SLA would be unaffected and the Negligible or Low magnitude of change to Special Qualities, the overall magnitude of change for the SLA would be considered to be **Low** during construction and operation.
Effect Significance	Effects on this SLA would be localised and indirect, resulting from the appearance of turbines within the wider context. These would virtually always be seen in the context of existing turbines and therefore not introduce new features into the view. While the increased number of turbines could extend the horizontal spread of visible turbines, these would only be to a small part of a very expansive landscape focused along the coast and out to sea, rather than inland. It is considered unlikely that the Proposed Varied Development would significantly influence the Special Qualities of this SLA due to the limited intervisibility and focus on coastline. The effect significance is therefore considered to be **Minor** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 4.3.3: Ben Klibreck and Loch Choire [SLA]			
Landscape Baseline			
Landscape Designation Description	This SLA is characterised by the contrast created between Ben Klibreck and Ben Armine and the open surrounding moorland. The hills are dominant features in the surrounding landscape. Ben Klibreck is particularly notable for its distinctive western profile. Due to the open surrounds the ridges and summits afford panoramic views in clear conditions. While the overall landscape appears simple, there is a diverse upland habitat that becomes apparent at a more detailed level. Loch Choire and Loch a' Bhealaich occupy the trough between the mountains and host pockets of native broadleaf woodland on their shores. While remnants of historic settlement are present throughout the glen, modern settlement is limited to the estate lodge and associated tracks. The lack of settlement, open moorland and isolation created by the mountains contribute to the sense of wildness in the area, as recognised by its inclusion by SNH in the Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest Wild Land Area (WLA 35).		
Landscape Value	Ben Klibreck and the surrounding lochs, and hills offer both solitude and isolation. It is recognised by SNH for its sense of wildness and remoteness. While there are non-vehicular access tracks through the area, these do little to distract from the overarching sense of remoteness. Landscape Value is considered to be **High**.		
Assessment of Landscape Effects on Special Qualities			
Key Quality	**Sensitivity**	**Potential Effects**	**Magnitude of Change**
Distinctive Mountains • The Ben Klibreck mountain range is a popular and relatively easy climb from Altnaharra. The absence of constructed tracks means	High	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen from parts of the Ben Klibreck range. VP9 gives an impression of how it would appear from summits in the area (see Figure 4.16c (EIAR Volume 3b)). From	Low

Table 4.3.3: Ben Klibreck and Loch Choire [SLA]			
the area retains a strong sense of wildness.		the hilltops it would almost always be seen in the context of the operational Bettyhill and / or Strathy North turbines. While it would likely appear noticeably closer, it would be unlikely to noticeably affect the recreational accessibility or enjoyment of this area as it would represent a change to only a small part of the wider landscape context.	
• Striking landscape features form the distinctive profile of the Ben Klibreck range contrasting with the large grassy corries sweeping down to Loch Choire and Loch A Bhealaich.	Low	The ZTV shows that there would be potential intervisibility from parts of the mountain range, however this would not affect the immediate experience of these features or their setting when viewed from within the SLA or the surrounding area.	Negligible
• The steep bounding slopes on the eastern and northern sides of Ben Armine provide a contrast with the relatively flat Flow Country beyond. Ben Armine is one of the most remote hill summits in Scotland.	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would appear in views from the summit of Ben Armine as a distant feature (over 20 km). It would be seen in the context of the operational Bettyhill and / or Strathy North turbines. It could increase the perceptibility, extent and scale of turbines within the landscape, however given the distance and separation this would be unlikely to affect its remote feel.	Low
Secluded Glen with Network of Tracks			
• The glen of Loch a Choire possesses a strong sense of seclusion and wildness although punctuated by the estate lodge. Landscape and visual interest is enhanced by important native woodland remnants.	High	Theoretical visibility within the glen is largely limited to the upper slopes on the northern side of the Loch with some intervisibility of tips on the southern shores and slopes. Based on the ZTV the turbines would not be perceptible from the native woodland remnants within the glen. The limited visibility of the turbines would be unlikely to affect the remote feel of the glen.	Low
• The glen also contains through-routes for non-vehicular traffic from Crask to Forsinard and numerous tracks south of the Loch.	Medium	This track forms part of Scottish Hill Track 342 – Crask Inn to Badanloch Lodge (see EIAR Volume 3a: Figure 4.5c). The ZTV shows that theoretical visibility along this route is largely limited to areas outwith the SLA. As only a very few turbines tips would be theoretically visible within a limited area, it is unlikely that they would result in a perceptible change.	Negligible
Extensive Views from Peaks and Summits			
• Exceptional panoramic views from high ridges and summits in clear conditions, extending to the northern coastline and beyond, taking in neighbouring	High	The Proposed Varied Development would form a feature within views to the north. VP9 gives an impression of how it would appear from summits in the area (see Figure 4.16c (EIAR Volume 3b)). From the hilltops it would almost always be seen in	Low

Table 4.3.3: Ben Klibreck and Loch Choire [SLA]			
peaks including Ben Hope and Ben Loyal and vast areas of surrounding moorland, the character of which is hard to discern from lower levels.		the area already affected by the operational Bettyhill and / or Strathy North turbines. While it would likely appear closer, it would remain a distant and relatively small feature within these wide and expansive views.	
Historic Landscape			
• This area contains the isolated remains of a cleared township and a number of shielings are located on the southern shore of Loch Choire.	High	There would be limited intervisibility with these features. At over 20 km distance, any tips theoretically visible from this area are likely to be barely perceptible.	Negligible
• The flatter area to the east of Ben Klibreck represents the southern extent of an extensive prehistoric settlement that is predominantly south of Loch Naver. Accordingly, a number of roundhouses, a burnt mound and a field system are recorded, although the main area of settlement lies outwith the boundary to the north.	High	There would be limited intervisibility with these features. At over 20 km distance, any tips theoretically visible from this area are likely to be barely perceptible particularly considering intervening woodland.	Negligible
Assessment of Landscape Effects			
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape. This area is very sensitive to development that could interrupt the relationship between the open moorland and the isolated mountains. Development or landuse change could impinge on the secluded character and wildness qualities of the central glen recognised by the inclusion of the area within SNH's Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest Wild Land Area (WLA 35). Landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed would be therefore considered **High.**		
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this landscape. The ZTV indicates that intervisibility of the Proposed Varied Development would be patchy and largely limited to northeast views from higher elevations and hill tops. There would also be limited visibility of a few tips from the loch itself. Many of these views are already affected by the operational Bettyhill and / or Strathy North turbines. The increased number of turbines within the landscape could result in a perceptible change to the landscape context outwith the SLA. Taking into account that the majority of the SLA would be unaffected and the Negligible or Low magnitude of change to Special Qualities, it is considered that the overall magnitude of change for the SLA would be **Low** during construction and operation.		
Effect Significance	Effects on this SLA would be indirect and localised, resulting from the appearance of turbines within the wider context. These would virtually always be seen in the context of existing turbines and therefore not introduce new features into the landscape. While the increased number of turbines would likely extend the horizontal spread of visible turbines, they would appear at a distance and of a scale considered unlikely to be very distracting. It is considered unlikely that the Proposed Varied Development would significantly influence the Special Qualities of this SLA due to the limited intervisibility, distance and clear visual separation. The effect significance would therefore be considered **Minor** (not significant) during construction and operation.		

Table 4.3.4: Bens Griam and Loch nan Clar [SLA]			
Landscape Baseline			
Landscape Designation Description	The focus of this sweeping moorland landscape is the trio of distinctive hills, Ben Griam Mòr, Ben Griam Beg and Meall a' Bhuirich. The moorland includes a collection of large lochs, one of which feeds the River Helmsdale. The overall sense of this landscape is one of remoteness, wildness, and open space. The atmosphere of isolation and remoteness is intensified by the fact that the area is almost completely uninhabited. However, recent upgrades to the road network to facilitate timber transportation, suggest that the area may not be as disconnected as it first appears. The area is characterised by open moorland broken up by montane grassland covered hills with rocky outcrops, areas of scree and watercourses cutting into the slopes. The presence of coniferous plantations juxtaposes the surrounding area and appears alien in this landscape. Larger burns and tributaries traverse the landscape; however, these are not always noticeable due to the largely flat peatland. The remains of prehistoric settlements are scattered across the landscape, including medieval townships and shielings. Archaeological features such as cairns and hut circles are frequently found in the area. Due to the nature of the landscape, current land use is largely limited to forestry and recreational pursuits, such as fishing, deer stalking, and hiking.		
Landscape Value	The Ben Griams and the surrounding lochs, hills and mountains form a landscape with an atmosphere of isolation and remoteness. The presence of coniferous forest plantations and associated road improvements and frequent forestry vehicles detract from this sense of remoteness. However, these roads also enhance opportunities for the wider public to experience this landscape. Landscape Value is considered to be **High**.		
Assessment of Landscape Effects on Special Qualities			
Key Quality	**Sensitivity**	**Potential Effects**	**Magnitude of Change**
Accessible Solitude			
• Ben Griam Mòr, Ben Griam Beg and Meall a' Bhùirich form a conspicuous cluster of Old Red Sandstone peaks lying within the surrounding landscape of lochs, watercourses and moorland.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would form a feature within views to the north. VP1 gives an impression of how it would appear from summits in the area (see Figure 4.8c (EIAR Volume 3b)). From the hilltops it would almost always be seen in the context of the operational Bettyhill and / or Strathy North turbines.	Medium
• Lochs punctuate the open moorland providing distinctive horizontal references which highlight the surrounding hills and reflect the texture of the moors.	Medium	The ZTV shows that there would be potential intervisibility from parts of the SLA, but that it would be limited from the lochs themselves. This would be unlikely to affect the immediate experience of these features or their setting when viewed from within the SLA or the surrounding area.	Negligible
• The B871 runs through the area providing travellers with extensive views and a chance to experience a sense of wildness and solitude.	Medium	Visibility of the Proposed Varied Development from this route would be limited. Where visible, it would be seen as a few tips over the mountains to the north and this would be unlikely to result in a perceptible change to the experience of wildness and solitude along the route.	Negligible
• Well maintained access tracks provide access to	Medium	Visibility of the Proposed Varied Development from access tracks with the SLA would be limited. As such it would be	Negligible

Table 4.3.4: Bens Griam and Loch nan Clar [SLA]			
remote parts of the SLA interior.		unlikely to noticeably affect the recreational accessibility or enjoyment of these routes as it would represent a change to only a small part of the wider landscape context.	
• Fishing on remote hill lochs in the SLA is enjoyed for the experience of isolation and tranquillity.	Medium	There would be no intervisibility between the Proposed Varied Development and the majority of the remote hill lochs. There would be some limited intervisibility with the western edge of the SLA on Loch an Alltan Fhearna and Loch Rimsdale. However, this would be limited to the tips of between one and two turbines and would therefore not affect the experience of isolation and tranquillity from the lochs.	Negligible
Flow Country Views			
• The isolated and well-defined hill summits offer a rare vantage point to view the vast extent of the Caithness and Sutherland peatlands punctuated by other lone summits including Ben Alisky, Morven, Scaraben and the Maiden Pap.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would form a feature within views to the north. VP1 gives an impression of how it would appear from summits in the area (see Figure 4.8c (EIAR Volume 3b)). From the summits within the SLA, the Proposed Varied Development would almost always be seen in the context of the operational Bettyhill and / or Strathy North turbines. It would however, appear closer, and could distract from some views, particularly northward.	Medium
• The A897, near the north east corner of this SLA, is one of few locations in Caithness and Sutherland to offer views from a public open road over a Flow Country pool system that are typically difficult to see because of the flatness of the peatlands.	High	The ZTV shows that there would be potential intervisibility from this part of the SLA for a short section along the A897. However, it would be limited to tips over the ridgeline to the northwest. Given the focus of the view and nature of the pool systems, it would be unlikely that the immediate experience and appreciation of these features or their setting would be affected.	Low

Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape. This area is very sensitive to development that could interrupt the relationship between the open moorland and the isolated mountains and the sense of scale this creates. Development or landuse change could not only impinge on the perceived wildness and remoteness of the area, it could also alter the existing drainage systems having significant effects on the sensitive peatlands. Landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed is therefore considered to be **High.**
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this landscape. The ZTV indicates that intervisibility of the Proposed Varied Development would be limited to northward views from higher elevations and hill tops. Many of these views are already affected by the operational Bettyhill and / or Strathy North turbines. However, the increased number of turbines located outwith the SLA would likely result in notable change to the wider landscape context viewed from within the SLA. While the majority of the SLA would be unaffected by the Proposed Varied Development it would likely result in notable changes in localised areas. Taking this and the Negligible to

Table 4.3.4: Bens Griam and Loch nan Clar [SLA]	
	Medium magnitude of change to Special Qualities, the overall magnitude of change for the SLA would be considered **Medium** during construction and operation.
Effect Significance	Effects on this SLA would be indirect and localised, resulting from the appearance of turbines to the north in the surrounding landscape. These would virtually always be seen in the context of existing turbines and therefore not introduce new features into the landscape. They would however likely extend the horizontal spread of turbines and would appear at a closer distance and of a larger scale. While it would have a negligible effect on the majority of the Special Qualities of the SLA, the Proposed Varied Development could detract from the appreciation of some qualities when seen in close proximity from elevated areas. The effect significance would therefore be considered **Moderate** (significant) during construction and operation.

Table 4.3.5: The Flow Country and Berriedale Coast [SLA]

Landscape Baseline

Landscape Designation Description	The Flow Country and Berriedale Coast SLA is made up of a variety of landscapes, ranging from interior peatland to isolated mountains and a raised coastal shelf. There is a strong feeling of remoteness and wildness within the interior of the landscape largely due to its inaccessibility and the lack access routes. The mountain and moorland peaks of the south western edge of the Flow Country join to create a distinct skyline visible from much of Caithness and offering views across the Flow Country and to the North Sea. The Berriedale and Langwell Glens bound these hills and provide a contrasting human scale experience by offering shelter and enclosure within this vast landscape. Together the woods within these glens make up the largest semi-natural broadleaved woodland in the Caithness. The isolated mountains of this SLA are typified by exposed rock, rocky outcrops, scree and montane vegetation. They rise abruptly from the extensive surrounding peatland which is very difficult to access or cross due to the drainage conditions. When seen from the hills the peatlands appear simple in composition, however closer inspection reveals an intricate network of lochs, pools, surface water, watercourses and tussocky wetland grass and heather. The peatland expanse is broken up in the south eastern part of the SLA by deeply carved wooded glens which offer shelter and protection to both vegetation and humans. Settlement is limited to these sheltered glens and the coast, leaving the largely undeveloped interior with a strong sense of wildness as recognised by its inclusion in SNH's Causeymire – Knockfin Flows Wild Land Area (WLA 36).
Landscape Value	The Flow Country and Berriedale SLA is highly valued landscape known for its sense of remoteness and its distinctive skyline which can be seen from much of Caithness. The lack of accessibility within the landscape may reduce opportunities for the landscape to be experienced but they further emphasise the sense of remoteness. Landscape Value is considered to be **High**.

Assessment of Landscape Effects on Special Qualities

Key Quality	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
Distinctive Mountain and Moorland Skyline			
• The distinctive combination of expansive peatland and isolated mountains is unique within the UK. The isolated and tall mountains emphasise the simplicity, flatness and low relief of the surrounding Flow Country peatland and vice versa.	High	The ZTV shows that there would be limited potential intervisibility from the SLA. It would largely be limited to distant views from hill tops and an area of higher elevation in the north eastern part of the SLA. Given the physical separation, it is unlikely that this would affect the immediate experience and appreciation of these features or their setting when viewed from within the SLA or the surrounding area.	Low
• The conspicuous mountain profiles, from striking cones to rolling masses, are visible from most of Caithness and serve as distinctive landmarks. They are typically seen from a distance and it is difficult to perceive their size or distance due to the simplicity of the intervening peatland.	High	There would be limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development from the SLA and Caithness. While it would form a perceptible addition to some to the west and northwest, it would not directly affect this landscape and would therefore be unlikely to result in a perceptible change to the appreciation of these mountains as distinctive landmarks for the area.	Low

Table 4.3.5: The Flow Country and Berriedale Coast [SLA]

• Morven forms a prominent conical landmark feature which is visible from both the north coast and the Morayshire coast. It stands in strong contrast to its long-backed neighbour Scaraben but is echoed on a smaller scale by the rocky profile of the nearby Maiden Pap. The latter is an especially striking landscape feature and backdrop when viewed from the Braemore area.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would form a feature within views to the northwest from Morven. Although VP2 is some distance away (over 10 km from the summits) it gives an impression of how the Proposed Varied Development would appear from summits in the area (see Figure 4.9c (EIAR Volume 3b)). The Proposed Varied Development would almost always be seen in the context of the operational Bettyhill and / or Strathy North turbines. While it would likely appear closer, at nearly 30 km away, it would remain a distant and relatively small feature within these wide and expansive views. Given the clear visual separation, it would be unlikely to affect appreciation of the summit as a landmark feature within the surrounding landscape.	Low
• Ben Alisky is a remote, isolated peak north of the main range of mountains. Whilst not particularly high (349 metres), it forms a distinctive landmark feature for a wide area of Caithness.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would form a feature within views to the northwest from Ben Alisky. Although VP2 is some distance away (over 10 km from the peak) it gives an impression of how the Proposed Varied Development would appear from summits in the area (see Figure 4.9c (EIAR Volume 3b)). The Proposed Varied Development would almost always be seen in the context of the operational Bettyhill and / or Strathy North turbines. While it would likely appear closer, at approximately 25 km away, it would remain a distant and relatively small feature within these wide and expansive views. Given the clear visual separation, it would be unlikely to affect appreciation of the summit as a landmark feature within the surrounding landscape.	Low
Exposed Peaks, Vast Openness and Intimate Glens			
• The mountain summits offer rare opportunity to view a panorama of wide ranging characteristics – extending over the Flow Country peatlands, out to sea and as far south as the Cairngorms in clear conditions.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would form a feature within views to the northwest from mountain tops within the SLA. Although VP2 is outwith the SLA and located closer to the Proposed Varied Development it gives an impression of how it would appear from summits in the area (see Figure 4.9c (EIAR Volume 3b)). From the hilltops it would almost always be seen in the context of the operational Bettyhill and / or Strathy North turbines. While it would likely appear closer, it would remain a distant (over 25 km from Ben Alisky and Morven) and relatively small feature within these wide and expansive views.	Low
• The vast open sweep of the peatlands with the long,	High	The ZTV shows that there would be limited potential intervisibility from the SLA. Taken	Negligible

Table 4.3.5: The Flow Country and Berriedale Coast [SLA]			
low horizon evokes strong feelings of isolation and wildness. The mountains on its southern edge and the isolated peak of Ben Alisky are welcome orientation features in a landscape otherwise lacking in landmarks.		in combination with the distance from the Proposed Varied Development, this would be unlikely to affect the appreciation of the feelings of isolation and wildness experienced from the open peatlands. Likewise, the limited intervisibility would be unlikely to affect the appreciation of Ben Alisky as an orientational feature in the area.	
• Experience of the open peatlands area is strongly affected by big skies with rapidly changing light and weather conditions.	Low	The Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to affect any appreciation of the landscape relating to weather conditions.	Negligible
• Views from local roads are particularly important along the higher sections of the A9 around Achavanich and Berriedale and from the road into Braemore. Views from the railway which skirts the area's north western side, from the valley tracks, from the mountain peaks, or even from aircraft all give different perspectives. Views of the Flow Country from elevated viewpoints, including from air, best reveal the distinctive pattern of the pool systems.	Medium	Intervisibility of the Proposed Varied Development from the various transportation corridors through and around the SLA would be largely limited. The ZTV shows that it would largely be limited to the railway line to the north of the SLA and the A9 around Achavanich. However, given the orientation of these and their relationship with the Proposed Varied Development it is unlikely that this would affect the appreciation of views into the SLA.	Low
• The deep wooded sections of the Berriedale and Langwell glens provide an intimacy of scale and shelter and are dotted with buildings and other welcoming signs of human habitation.	High	There would be no intervisibility with the Proposed Varied Development from the Berriedale or Langwell Glens.	Negligible
• Berriedale, is a dispersed settlement with buildings sandwiched between the Berriedale Water and the steep cliffs of the Berriedale Braes, over which the A9 takes a series of blind bends that are notoriously difficult to manoeuvre.	Medium	There would be no intervisibility with the Proposed Varied Development from Berriedale or the surrounding area.	Negligible
• Within the glens, there is a concentration of architecturally and historically important buildings.	Medium	There would be no intervisibility with the Proposed Varied Development along either Berriedale or Langwell Glens the immediate surrounding area.	Negligible
Historic Landscape			

Table 4.3.5: The Flow Country and Berriedale Coast [SLA]			
• Recognising that the inland waterways were a vital method of transport and communication in prehistory. Monuments are predominantly located along Langwell and Berriedale Waters and their tributaries.	Medium	There would be no intervisibility with the Proposed Varied Development along either Berriedale or Langwell Waters and the immediate surrounding area.	Negligible
Assessment of Landscape Effects			
Landscape Sensitivity	This area is very sensitive to development that could compromise views of the distinctive skyline. The introduction of large-scale structures in views could affect the perception of the scale of the mountains and the vast surrounding peatlands. Development could compromise not only the sensitive hydrology of the peatlands but also the sense of remoteness and wildness particularly within the interior. Landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed is therefore considered to be **High.**		
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this landscape. The ZTV indicates that intervisibility of the Proposed Varied Development would be patchy and largely limited to the north eastern part of the SLA and views from higher elevations and hill tops. Many of these are already affected by the operational Bettyhill and / or Strathy North turbines. At its closest point, the Proposed Varied Development turbines are located approximately 18 km from the SLA. The majority of the SLA is over 25 km from the turbines. As such, while the increased number of turbines within the landscape could result in a perceptible change to the wider landscape context to the northwest, this change would be seen in the distance and well outwith the SLA. Taking into account that the majority of the SLA would be unaffected and the Negligible or Low magnitude of change to Special Qualities, the overall magnitude of change for the SLA would be considered **Low** during construction and operation.		
Effect Significance	Effects on this SLA would be localised and indirect, resulting from the appearance of turbines within the wider context. These would largely be seen in the context of existing turbines, particularly from hilltops and therefore not introduce new features into the landscape. While the increased number of turbines would likely extend the horizontal spread of turbines, they would appear at a distance and of a scale considered unlikely to be very distracting. It is considered unlikely that the Proposed Varied Development would significantly influence the Special Qualities of this SLA due to the limited intervisibility and clear visual separation. The effect significance would therefore be considered **Minor** (not significant) during construction and operation.		

Table 4.3.6: Dunnet Head [SLA]

Landscape Baseline

Landscape Designation Description	This area covers the most northerly point on mainland Britain, the Dunnet Head peninsula, adjoining Dunnet Bay and settlements of Dunnet and West Dunnet. It is characterised by its prominent Old Red Sandstone headland, striking vertical cliffs and expanse of isolated moorland. The peninsula juts out into the Pentland Firth making the experience one of being more at sea than land. Clear weather affords impressive and extensive views to Orkney, Strathy Point, Cape Wrath and Duncansby Head and inland to the distinctive hills of the Flow Country to the south. The lighthouse is a striking feature within the landscape and a popular tourist stopping point and local landmark. Set amongst the remains of World War II (WWII) defensive structures, a viewpoint with interpretive signage helps visitors to interpret and appreciate the surrounding landscape. The cliffs form an abrupt and sharply defined vertical edge to the coastline when viewed against the open sea. From the cliff tops the sense of exposure can be dramatic and, for some, intimidating. Low vegetation clings to the cliff tops, ledges and eroded faces. Sea birds including puffins frequent these cliff edges and steep coastal grassland. The sounds and activity of the birds adds to the dynamic experience of the landscape and draw bird watchers to the area. Away from the cliff the sweeping moorland is punctuated by lochans, hilltops and the remains of WWII defensive structures. The southern part of the SLA is made up of more settled farmland, and fine sandy beach and dune systems providing a contrasting experience to the exposed headland. Views to the south reveal a pattern of pasture and arable fields that form a distinctive transition between the exposed headland and the settled lowlands to the south.
Landscape Value	This SLA offers spectacular views both seaward and inland to distant mountain peaks. The dramatic headland and cliffs of the SLA are valued both as a tourist attraction and as an opportunity to bird watch. The opportunity to experience the sea's force and scale at the most northly point on mainland Britain adds to the overall value landscape. Landscape Value is considered to be **High**.

Assessment of Landscape Effects on Special Qualities

Key Quality	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
Panoramic Views from Prominent Headland and Striking Cliffs			
• The prominent headland forms a striking large landmark at the northernmost point of the British mainland. High numbers of visitors travel along the single-track road to the viewpoint and lighthouse which occupies a commanding position and is itself a prominent feature in views from land and sea.	High	There would be limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development from the SLA and Caithness. VP14 gives an impression of how the Proposed Varied Development would appear from summits in the SLA, where visible (see Figure 4.21a (EIAR Volume 3b)). While it would form a perceptible addition to some views to the southwest it would not directly affect this landscape and would therefore be unlikely to affect the appreciation of the headland or its role as the northernmost point of the British mainland.	Negligible
• Views to the sheer cliffs of distinctive, horizontally layered Old Red Sandstone are enlivened by the changing light and weather conditions, the crashing waves of the Pentland Firth	Low	The Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to affect any appreciation of the landscape relating to weather and sea conditions or presence of sea birds.	Negligible

Table 4.3.6: Dunnet Head [SLA]

and the presence of many species of nesting sea birds.			
• Distinctive landform features include ravines such as Red and Chapel Geos, crags and promontories such as The Neback and Easter Head, and by areas of rocky coast where the cliff have slumped and eroded.	High	While the Proposed Varied Development would form a perceptible addition to the southwest, it would not directly affect this landscape and would therefore be unlikely to affect the appreciation of these distinctive landforms for the area.	Low
• In clear conditions expansive views are obtained, from the cliff tops and from elevated positions, extending across the sea to Orkney, Cape Wrath, Strathy Point, Duncansby Head, and inland to the peaks of Caithness including Morvern, Maiden Pap and Scaraben. These views looking across flat terrain or a low seaward horizon, are so expansive that they can prompt strong emotional responses, including evoking an "edge of world" feeling.	High	The ZTV shows that potential intervisibility from the SLA would largely be limited to distant views from southwest facing higher ground. It could form a perceptible addition to some views, however given the physical separation it is unlikely that this would affect the immediate experience and appreciation of surrounding landscape features or their relationship to the SLA.	Low
Isolated Moorland and Lochans			
• Inland from the sea cliffs the headland consists of an outlying area of moorland with scattered lochans, isolated from the landward moors by a farmed and settled coastal strip that extends across the neck of the peninsula.	High	While the Proposed Varied Development would form a perceptible addition to the southwest it would not directly affect this landscape and would therefore be unlikely to affect the immediate experience or appreciation of these distinctive landforms for the area.	Negligible
• The moorland seems extensive, even though it is actually quite small in extent, as its edges are typically not seen from its interior, and there are a lack of comparable size indicators.	High	The ZTV shows that potential intervisibility from the SLA would largely be limited to distant views from southwest facing higher ground. It could form a perceptible addition to some views, however given the physical separation it is unlikely that this would affect the extensive experience or appreciation of the moorland.	Negligible
Contrasting Bay and Cliff Landscape			
• The sweeping curve of fine sandy beach and sheltered agricultural landscape at Dunnet Bay seems to form a secluded haven in sharp	High	There would be very limited intervisibility with these features. At over 40 km distance, any tips that would be theoretically visible from this area would likely to be barely perceptible. It is unlikely	Negligible

Table 4.3.6: Dunnet Head [SLA]			
contrast to the elevated and dramatic headland which projects beyond.		that that this limited visibility would affect the appreciation of the bay as a secluded haven contrasting to the dramatic headland.	
Assessment of Landscape Effects			
Landscape Sensitivity	This area is very sensitive to development that could impinge on views towards the headland or the expansive panoramas seen from Dunnet Head. The introduction of large-scale structures on or near the headline could compromise the perception of scale and the seemingly extensive character of the interior moorland. These types of structures could also compromise the areas distinctive landmark qualities or disrupt the gentle curve of Dunnet Bay and its sense of seclusion. Landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed is therefore considered to be **High.**		
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this landscape. The ZTV indicates that intervisibility of the Proposed Varied Development would be patchy and largely limited to the western side of the SLA from higher elevations. Where visible the turbines would be seen as tips over the distant horizon. VP14 gives an impression of this (see Figure 4.21a (EIAR Volume 3b)). Many of these are already affected by the operational turbines in the surrounding lowland agricultural landscape. The increased number of turbines within the landscape would be unlikely to result in a perceptible change to the landscape context outwith the SLA. Taking into account the distance from the Proposed Varied Development, that much of the SLA would be unaffected and the Negligible or Low magnitude of change to Special Qualities, the overall magnitude of change for the SLA would be considered **Negligible** during construction and operation.		
Effect Significance	Effects on this SLA would be localised and indirect, resulting from the appearance of very distant turbine tips within the wider context. These would be seen in the context of much nearer and more prominent existing turbines and therefore not introduce new features into the landscape. The turbine tips would appear at a distance and of a scale considered unlikely to result in any discernible reduction in scenic quality or change to the intrinsic character or Special Qualities of the area, due to the limited intervisibility and clear visual separation. The effect significance would therefore be considered **Negligible** (not significant) during construction and operation.		

Table 4.3.7: WLA 35. Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest	
Landscape Baseline	
Landscape Designation Description	This WLA, located around 14 km to the south of the Proposed Varied Development covers an extensive area of over 500 km². The WLA stretches across central Sutherland covering between the settlements of Lairg, Altnaharra and Kinbrace and accommodates the mountain of Ben Klibreck which forms a prominent focus and deep, linear glen of Loch Choire. Apart from these features, it comprises a series of round-topped hills and plateaux and extensive areas of undulating peatland and lochans. The WLA is uninhabited other than a few isolated estate buildings and is relatively distant from large population centres. Small single track roads surround the WLA to the north, northeast and northwest of the WLA and therefore it is usually experienced from outside its edge, although Ben Klibreck attracts a number of walkers. The WLA has a close association with other neighbouring WLAs, particularly to the west and is influenced by the distant mountains of Ben Loyal, Ben Hope and the Ben Griams to the north, Morven to the east and Ben More Assynt to the west. There is often a sense of continuation across these neighbouring landscapes, particularly to the west, where the development within surrounding glens is hidden. The WLA is affected by existing wind farm development including Gordonbush wind farm close to its eastern edge. The Strathy North wind farm is distant to the north. The

Table 4.3.7: WLA 35. Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest	
	consented, but unconstructed, Creag Riabhach wind farm would further increase the influence of wind farm development on its western edge and around Ben Klibreck. The SNH Map of Relative Wildness[5] (refer to EIAR Volume 3b: Figure 4.3b) shows the higher areas of wildness to be through the central and southern parts of the WLA and on the high summit area of Ben Klibreck. A more moderate degree of relative wildness is shown towards the north and around the outer edges of the WLA where there is a greater influence of features such as tracks, although there are very few areas shown to have a low wildness value. Smaller areas of high wildness are scattered through these areas of more moderate wildness within hollows and isolated glens.
Landscape Value	This WLA has been nationally recognised for its wild land characteristics. It also partially falls within the Ben Klibreck and Loch Coire Special Landscape Area (SLA). Landscape Value is considered to be **High**.

Assessment of Effects on Physical and Perceptual Attributes

Attribute	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
Perceived naturalness	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would not alter land cover in the WLA. The appearance of the turbines within the northern landscape context from some areas around the north of the WLA could give an impression of development in this context coming closer, although forest is already more closely evident in this context.	Negligible
Lack of construction or other artefacts	High	The Proposed Varied Development would be perceived in the northern context from areas on the north facing slopes and hills around the north of the WLA including the facing slopes and summit of Ben Klibreck, hills around Loch Choire (see Figure 4.16c - VP9: Creag na h-Iolaire (EIAR Volume 3b)) and a few summits further to the south. From some of these areas Strathy North and limited development around Loch Choire is already evident and reduces the strength of the baseline but the Proposed Varied Development would be more prominent and appear closer. However, the presence of intervening forest areas between the WLA and the Proposed Varied Development in most of these areas would lead to its appearing within a clearly separate landscape. Where these forest areas are not perceived, further into the heart of the WLA, a few tips and blades could be seen but would be much more distant and likely to be often difficult to perceive.	Low
Little evidence of contemporary land use	High	The Proposed Varied Development would introduce a sense of new contemporary land use within the northern context in the areas where it would be intervisible and would appear to bring wind turbine development closer to these areas. Intervening forest is usually already seen at closer proximity in this context from these areas and therefore a sense of contemporary land use is already partially	Low

[5] Data source: SNH's Natural Spaces website https://gateway.snh.gov.uk/natural-spaces/

Table 4.3.7: WLA 35. Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest			
		present. However, the Proposed Varied Development could increase this in some discrete areas.	
Rugged or challenging terrain	Low	The Proposed Varied Development would not alter the terrain within the WLA.	Negligible
Remoteness and inaccessibility	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to lead to any noticeably increased perception of accessibility within the WLA.	Negligible
A sense of sanctuary or solitude	High	A notable sense of solitude is experienced throughout the WLA as there is a strong sense of remoteness and being far from developed areas. The Proposed Varied Development would be seen in the northern context from some areas on the summits and slopes to the north of the WLA and a few summits further south. Some of these areas already have intervisibility with estate features around Loch Choire which may slightly reduce the sense of solitude. The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development would be likely to bring a sense of large-scale development slightly closer to these northern parts of the WLA. However, it would still appear very far from the WLA within a vast context and would not affect the central areas with the highest degree of this attribute is felt.	Negligible
Risk or anxiety	Low	The Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to affect any sense of risk.	Negligible
Arresting or inspiring qualities / sense of awe	High	The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development in the northern context from some areas, particularly within the most elevated views would form a new feature which could draw the focus of views. This could affect the sense of expansiveness to the north. However, it would not interrupt the views towards any of the mountains which currently provide focal points and would affect relatively small parts of the WLA. Uninterrupted expansive vistas and an awe-inspiring sense of space would remain.	Low
Physically challenging	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would not affect the challenging nature of the terrain.	Negligible
Assessment of Landscape Effects on Key Qualities			
Key Quality	**Sensitivity**	**Potential Effects**	**Magnitude of Change**
An awe-inspiring simplicity of landform and landcover and a perception of 'emptiness', so that the extent of the peatland often seems greater than it is.	High	The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development in the extensive northern context from some areas would increase the emphasis of the focus formed by Strathy North wind farm and give an impression of increased and closer development in this area. However, the presence of intervening forest at closer proximity creates some sense of separation between these areas. The potential changes to	Low

Table 4.3.7: WLA 35. Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest			
		Lack of Construction and Other Artefacts, Sense of Sanctuary and Solitude and Arresting or Inspiring Qualities / Sense of Awe in this area would lead to a small localised reduction in this Key Quality in a few areas but would not be very noticeable across the WLA.	
Arresting, isolated mountains rise up in stark contrast to surrounding peatland and glens, amplifying the awe-inspiring qualities of each	High	The Proposed Varied Development would form a new focus in the northern landscape, appearing much closer and more prominent than Strathy North wind farm. Whilst this could divert some attention from surrounding mountains, it would not interrupt the view towards these features and would not affect the locally awe-inspiring qualities engendered by the mountains within the WLA.	Low
A remote interior where access involves long distances and lengthy time via penetrating glens or crossing over and around rugged landforms and waterbodies.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would not alter the accessibility of the WLA. It would generally not be intervisible with areas within the remote interior although it could be seen as part of the journey into these areas if approaching from the north or west. However, it would appear relatively distant, from these approaches which are already more affected by exterior elements and would be unlikely to affect the sense of solitude of the interior.	Negligible
An extensive area of peatland with a prevailing strong sense of naturalness.	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would not alter land cover or terrain and is considered unlikely to affect the Perceived Naturalness of the WLA. The appearance within the northern landscape from some areas could alter perceived scale of these farther landscapes but would be seen in association with closer forest.	Negligible
A secluded, elevated and remote interior plateau shielded by an outer rim of hills, in which there is a strong sense of solitude, sanctuary and risk.	High	The Proposed Varied Development could be perceived from a few elevated areas on the northern edge of the plateau but would be unlikely to be experienced within the core of this area where the strongest sense of solitude is experienced.	Negligible
Assessment of Landscape Effects			
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape and the high degree of relative wildness within it is considered to be very susceptible to change of the type proposed. Landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed is therefore considered to be **High**.		
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this WLA with indirect change limited to the appearance of the Proposed Varied Development from a few areas towards the north of the WLA including facing slopes and summits, some areas of elevated moorland and a higher areas of ground further to the south. The vast majority of the WLA would not be affected. The Proposed Varied Development would appear within the northern context where Strathy North wind farm is already a distant element but would be closer and larger. This has the potential to lead to a small degree of localised change to the attributes "*Lack of construction or Other Artefacts*", "*Little Evidence of Contemporary Land Use*" and "*Arresting or inspiring qualities / sense of awe*" within the areas where intervisibility would be potentially obtained. A consequent small and localised degree of change is anticipated to the Key Qualities "*An awe-inspiring simplicity of landform and landcover and a perception of 'emptiness'...*", and "*A remote interior...*".		

Table 4.3.7: WLA 35. Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest	
	Overall, considering the magnitude of landscape change to physical and perceptual attributes and Key Qualities, the magnitude of change to wildness values within this WLA is considered to be generally **Negligible** but locally **Low** from upper northern slopes and summits.
Effect Significance	The Proposed Varied Development would lead to localised and indirect changes to parts of the WLA including higher summits, elevated moorland and facings slopes towards the north of the WLA. The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development within the northern context of these areas would appear to bring contemporary land use and modern artefacts closer to the WLA. However, it would still appear relatively distant and forest, closer to this part of the WLA, would create a sense of separation between the landscapes directly affected by the Proposed Varied Development and the WLA. Nevertheless, the increased focus within this part of the context has the potential to form a distraction from the sense of expansiveness and the appearance of landmark mountains in some areas, although it would not interrupt the view towards any of these features. This is anticipated to lead to a **Minor** (not significant) and localised effect on the attributes "*Lack of construction or Other Artefacts*", "*Little Evidence of Contemporary Land Use*", and "*Arresting or inspiring qualities / sense of awe*" in these areas, leading to a perceptible impact on the Key Qualities "*An awe-inspiring simplicity of landform and landcover and a perception of 'emptiness', so that the extent of the peatland often seems greater than it is*" and "*Arresting, isolated mountains rise up in stark contrast to surrounding peatland and glens, amplifying the awe-inspiring qualities of each*". The vast majority of the WLA would remain unaffected including most areas showing the highest degree of relative wildness. As such, there would be no effect on the qualities relating to the remote interior and the "Sense of Sanctuary or Solitude". Overall, the combined effect on the Physical and Perceptual attributes and Key Qualities is considered to lead to a localised **Minor** (not significant) wild land effect on WLA 35: Ben Klibrick – Armine Forest during construction and operation, with the effect to the majority of the area being **Negligible** (not significant). The integrity of the WLA would not be affected.

Table 4.3.8: WLA 36. Causeymire – Knockfin Flows	
Landscape Baseline	
Landscape Designation Description	This WLA is located around 14 km to the south east of the Proposed Varied Development. It comprises an extensive area of over 500 km² of remote open, peatland moorland on the boundary between Caithness and Sutherland known as the Flow Country. This is a remote and uninhabited area with limited access. Whilst roads are found around its southern, eastern and western edges, and a railway line defines the northern boundary, access within it is limited to a few tracks and paths. The WLA has a generally low profiled terrain with a series of rounded hills around the eastern, western and southern edges forming the edge of a gently undulating plateau. The steep-sided mountain Morven forms a distinctive landmark feature within its core sometimes seen with its lower nearby neighbour Maiden Pap. Extensive areas of forest plantation are present around its northern and western edges. The north eastern part of the WLA is influenced by a number of wind farms within Caithness, whilst Gordonbush wind farm has some influence to parts of the WLA in the south. Strathy North wind farm also has some influence in the north western context but is relatively distant. The SNH Map of Relative Wildness (refer to EIAR Volume 3a: Figure 4.3b). shows this WLA to have a generally moderate degree of wildness with reduced wildness shown in some of the glens where tracks are present. The greatest degree of wildness is indicated within central areas towards the south west on the higher hills and within glens and hollows.
Landscape Value	This WLA has been nationally recognised for its wild land characteristics. It also partially falls within the Flow Country and Berriedale Coast SLA and is covered by a number of ecological and ornithological designations.

Table 4.3.8: WLA 36. Causeymire – Knockfin Flows			
	Landscape Value is considered to be **High**.		
Assessment of Effects on Physical and Perceptual Attributes			
Attribute	**Sensitivity**	**Potential Effects**	**Magnitude of Change**
Perceived naturalness	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would not alter land cover within the WLA. The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development would appear within the north western context. From some areas up on the plateau, where development and forest at Forsinard are screened and this context is seen as a continuation of the WLA, this could slightly increase a perception of managed landscapes within this part of the context. However, this would be perceived from a very limited number of locations.	Negligible
Lack of construction or other artefacts	High	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen from facing slopes and high ground in the west of the WLA and higher summits within its core, in the north western context close to Strathy North wind farm. However, it would appear larger and closer than Strathy North wind farm which is distant and small. Most areas of intervisibility within the north west of the WLA already have some influence of features around Forsinard, the minor road and railway line although these are small. From areas on the upper plateau and summits, the Proposed Varied Development could be more prominent, with a sense of continuity between the WLA and north western context. Distant blades could also be perceived from the northern part of the WLA but would have little influence given the proximity of other more prominent developments to the west with intervening forest providing a degree of separation from the Proposed Varied Development. These areas comprise very small parts of the WLA overall.	Low
Little evidence of contemporary land use	High	The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development to the north west from western slopes, summits and northern moorland areas could increase the perception of contemporary land use in this part of the wider context. From some areas of the plateau and summits where a degree of continuity between the WLA and this context is experienced and surrounding forest is less evident, this could slightly affect the strength of the attribute in the WLA but this would be limited and the vast majority of the WLA would not be affected.	Negligible
Rugged or challenging terrain	Low	The Proposed Varied Development would not alter the terrain within the WLA.	Negligible

Table 4.3.8: WLA 36. Causeymire – Knockfin Flows			
Remoteness and inaccessibility	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to lead to any noticeably increased perception of accessibility within the WLA.	Negligible
A sense of sanctuary or solitude	High	Due to its vast scale, this WLA has a general sense of solitude and feeling of being far from others, despite the present of a few tracks and paths in the glens and the minor roads and railway around the outside. The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development in the north western context could introduce a sense of greater human intervention within the context to the few areas where it would be visible. However, it would still appear far away and therefore its influence would be small. Most of the areas affected, closer to the boundary of the WLA already have some influence of human intervention such as forest and wind farms and this perception is therefore already reduced. The more central areas affected, which have a stronger perception of solitude, are small.	Negligible
Risk or anxiety	Low	The Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to affect any sense of risk.	Negligible
Arresting or inspiring qualities / sense of awe	High	The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development in the north western context from a few areas, most notably on the plateau and higher summits, has the potential to interrupt the sense of expansive surroundings from some areas and to draw some focus within views. This could draw attention away from some surrounding mountains but would affect only small parts of the WLA. Although VP2 is located on the edge of the WLA, it gives an impression of how the Proposed Varied Development would appear from summits in the area (see Figure 4.9c (EIAR Volume 3b)). An overriding sense of expansiveness would remain.	Low
Physically challenging	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would not affect the challenging nature of the terrain.	Negligible
Assessment of Landscape Effects on Key Qualities			
Key Quality	**Sensitivity**	**Potential Effects**	**Magnitude of Change**
Awe-inspiring simplicity of wide, open peatland from which rise isolated, arresting, steep mountains.	High	The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development within the northern context has the potential to create a new focus and draw attention away from some of the far mountains where these are perceived. In a few discrete areas this could reduce the sense of awe where topography leads to an apparent continuation of the WLA beyond Forsinard and across these landscapes. However, it would not affect the appreciation of the mountains within the WLA (such as Morven) and the contrast between	Low

Table 4.3.8: WLA 36. Causeymire – Knockfin Flows			
		these and the peatlands, as it would barely, if ever, be seen in this context.	
Irregular peatland and dubh lochan, comprising a complex mix of hidden pools, bogs and lochans that contribute to perceived naturalness and limit access.	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would not affect any of the terrain or land cover, nor change access availability within the WLA. There is the potential for it to be perceived in relation to Knockfin Heights dubh lochans, highlighted in the WLA description and it could form a distraction and reduce the perception of perceived naturalness in the wider area. However, this would only affect a small part of the context and this is a very small part of the WLA.	Low
An extensive remote interior with few visitors in contrast to the margins of the area from which many people view into the WLA.	High	There would be little intervisibility of the Proposed Varied Development from within the remote interior of the WLA, although it may be seen in the distant context from high summits. The wide and expansive view from these areas already features more contemporary land use and human artefacts than lower areas although the Proposed Varied Development could appear closer and more prominent than other features in the landscape to the north west. Around the edges the Proposed Varied Development could be occasionally seen, but would be clearly separate to the WLA and therefore would not affect its appreciation.	Low
Wide glens containing meandering rivers that limit access and are often the focus for isolated historic features.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would not be perceived within any of the wide meandering glens within the WLA.	Negligible
Rolling, interlocking hills in the south containing remote, sheltered glen with limited visibility.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would not affect any of the smaller remote glens within the southern rolling hills.	Negligible
Assessment of Landscape Effects			
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape and its lack of development and expansiveness is considered to be very susceptible to change of the type proposed although there is already some influence of similar development in some areas. Landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed is therefore considered to be **High**.		
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this WLA with indirect change limited to the appearance of the Proposed Varied Development from a few areas including the western facing hill slopes and edges of the plateau, northern areas of open peatland and higher areas and summits within the central core. The vast majority of the WLA would not be affected. The Proposed Varied Development would appear within the north western context and would appear closer and larger than the existing Strathy North wind farm. This has the potential to lead to localised change to the attributes "*Lack of construction or Other Artefacts*" and "*Arresting or inspiring qualities / sense of awe*" in some areas, mostly up on the edge of the plateau in the west of the WLA where there is less influence of surrounding forest and development and a sense of continuation between the WLA and the farther landscapes to the north west. A consequent small and localised degree of change is anticipated to the Key Qualities "*Awe-inspiring simplicity of wide open peatland*		

Table 4.3.8: WLA 36. Causeymire – Knockfin Flows	
	from which rise isolated, arresting, steep mountains", "*Irregular peatland and dubh lochan…*" and "*An extensive remote interior…*". Overall, considering the magnitude of landscape change to physical and perceptual attributes and Key Qualities the magnitude of change to wildness values within this WLA is considered to be generally **Negligible** but there would be some very localised areas within which it is anticipated to be **Low** on the upper slopes and edges of the plateau in the west of the WLA and some high ground further towards the centre of the WLA.
Effect Significance	The Proposed Varied Development would lead to localised and indirect changes to parts of the WLA including upper slopes and edges of the plateau in the west and a few areas of high ground and mountain summits further towards the centre. The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development within the north western context of these areas would appear to bring wind energy development closer to these parts of the WLA although it would still appear distant and remote, particularly from the areas of greatest wildness within the core of the WLA. However, within some discrete areas, it would create an increased focus which could form a distraction within the very expansive context and could distract visual focus from distant isolated mountains or closer features such as the dubh-lochans at Knockfin Heights. This is anticipated to lead to a very localised **Minor** (not significant) effect on the Key Qualities of "*Awe-inspiring simplicity of wide open peatland from which rise isolated, arresting, steep mountains*", "*Irregular peatland and dubh lochan, comprising a complex mix of hidden pools, bogs and lochans that contribute to perceived naturalness and limit access*" and "*An extensive remote interior with few visitors in contrast to the margins of the area from which many people view into the WLA.*" However, this would not be significant and is considered to be **Negligible** (not significant) within the context of the WLA as a whole as the vast majority of the WLA would not be affected. The integrity of the WLA would not be affected.

Table 4.3.9: WLA 38. Ben Hope – Ben Loyal	
Landscape Baseline	
Landscape Designation Description	This WLA is located around 17 km to the west of the Proposed Varied Development and comprises the distinctive and prominent mountains of Ben Hope and Ben Loyal which are set within a surrounding simple peatland with occasional crags, upland rocky plateaux and lochs. It extends across and area of 220 km² between the Kyle of Tongue in the north and Loch Meadie in the south with the main north coast road forming its northern boundary and very minor single track roads around its eastern, southern and western edges. The WLA is uninhabited with only a few estate buildings present within and around the periphery although settlement within and around the village of Tongue is present at the northeast adjacent to the Kyle of Tongue where the boundary forms an indent to exclude this area. Existing wind farms which influence this area are limited to Strathy North and two turbines at Bettyhill, which are perceived as relatively small features within the eastern context from some areas. The SNH Map of Relative Wildness (refer to EIAR Volume 3a: Figure 4.3b) shows this WLA to have a generally moderate degree of wildness with the highest degree of wildness found only on the highest summits, ridges and crags, mostly towards the western sides of the two mountains, and in a few of the more remote glens and corries. A lower degree of wildness is shown within the central glen which passes between the two mountain masses due to the presence of a track, and around some of the outer periphery where roads and buildings are occasionally more influential. However, site visits have determined that these routes still display a strong sense of remoteness.
Landscape Value	This WLA has been nationally recognised for its wild land characteristics and its northern part also falls within the Kyle of Tongue NSA. It is a popular destination for hillwalkers and is appreciated as a visual landmark and backdrop and to other surrounding landscapes. Landscape Value is therefore considered to be **High**.

Table 4.3.9: WLA 38. Ben Hope – Ben Loyal

Assessment of Effects on Physical and Perceptual Attributes

Attribute	Sensitivity	Potential Effects	Magnitude of Change
Perceived naturalness	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would appear in the distance to the east from high points and some facing parts of the northern, plateau area. From highest vantage points forest and other wind turbines are seen already within the existing vista although the Proposed Varied Development could slightly increase a sense of wind turbine development within this context. From the northern plateau, other managed, less natural landscapes are seen within the intervening view. The sense of natural land cover within the WLA would not be affected.	Negligible
Lack of construction or other artefacts	High	The Proposed Varied Development would increase the appearance of man-made artefacts in the eastern landscape context perceived from high ground (see VP8: Sgòr Choanasaid – Figures 4.15c (EIAR Volume 3b)), summits and parts of the northern plateau. Most of these areas are already affected by the presence of the existing Strathy North and Bettyhill wind farms, though a few of the lower plateau areas have less existing evidence of contemporary land use. Nevertheless, from these areas, the turbines would appear distant, and due to intervening topography, there would be a clear sense of separation between them and the WLA.	Medium - Low
Little evidence of contemporary land use	High	The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development in the eastern landscape context could increase a perception of contemporary land use outwith the WLA. However, the areas affected predominantly experience some sense of existing land use within the surrounding comprising improved and settled areas around Tongue, forest and other wind turbines.	Low
Rugged or challenging terrain	Low	The Proposed Varied Development would not affect the rugged or challenging nature of the terrain.	Negligible
Remoteness and inaccessibility	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to lead to any noticeably increased perception of accessibility within the WLA.	Negligible
A sense of sanctuary or solitude	High	The appearance of the Proposed Varied Development in the distant eastern landscape could increase a perception of management and development in this context. However, the distance of this from the WLA would be unlikely to alter sense of solitude which is obtained due to the feeling of elevation from high points, and enclosing aspects of the nearby mountains from lower areas, and the effort required to reach these locations.	Negligible

Table 4.3.9: WLA 38. Ben Hope – Ben Loyal			
Risk or anxiety	Low	There is a considerable sense of risk experienced within this WLA due to steep slopes, ridges and crags and areas of isolated bog. The Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to alter this sense of risk.	Negligible
Arresting or inspiring qualities / sense of awe	High	Substantial arresting qualities and sense of awe are experienced due to the appearance of the dramatic mountains and sense of isolation and elevation. Whilst the Proposed Varied Development would appear within the expansive views from the high tops, and could distract focus in this situation, it would be unlikely to affect the more immediate drama experienced within the WLA.	Low
Physically challenging	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would not alter the physically challenging nature of the terrain.	Negligible
Assessment of Landscape Effects on Key Qualities			
Key Quality	**Sensitivity**	**Potential Effects**	**Magnitude of Change**
A striking, awe inspiring contrast between isolated mountains and open peatland.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would appear in the distance within the open peatland context to the east, perceived from some areas. This could form some degree of distraction when mountains further away from the focus of views, but would be unlikely to draw away the focus from the immediate high mountains within the WLA or to alter the sense of contrast between Ben Loyal and Ben Hope and the surrounding peatlands.	Low
Towering, steep, rocky mountains that are arresting and attract hill walkers.	High	The Proposed Varied Development in the eastern context would form a new focus which could occasionally distract from the arresting qualities experienced from the mountains. However, the most notable areas where a strong sense of solitude is noted to be experienced: the deep secluded corries on the west side of Ben Loyal and area around Loch a' Ghobha-Dhuibh, would not be affected and the more immediate focus on the drama of the mountains experienced within the WLA would be unlikely to be noticeably distracted from most areas.	Low
Rugged, rocky knolls, crags and plateaux conveying a strong sense of naturalness.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would not alter the terrain or accessibility of the knolls, crags and plateau. Whilst it could be perceived in the surrounding context from some areas, its distance as a feature would be unlikely to lead to any reduction in the sense of solitude and remoteness.	Negligible
Extensive, exposed peatland and lochs that are awe-inspiring in their simplicity and openness.	High	As described under the attribute headings above, the appearance of the Proposed Varied Development would form a new feature in parts of the wider context to the east in a few	Low

Table 4.3.9: WLA 38. Ben Hope – Ben Loyal			
		parts of the WLA. This could interrupt the expansive open vistas in this direction from some peatland areas, although turbines at Strathy North and Bettyhill are already usually visible in this context and other intervening contemporary land use is perceived around Tongue, particularly from the northern plateau area. The partial screening effects of intervening topography would give a degree of separation and distance from the Proposed Varied Development and the exposed peatland areas would therefore retain their sense of simplicity and openness within the WLA.	
Native woodland highlighting landscape features and contributing cumulatively to the sense of naturalness.	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would not alter the perceived naturalness of existing areas of native woodland.	Negligible
An interior possessing strong qualities of sanctuary and solitude, away from the mountain foci near the WLA margins.	High	The Proposed Varied Development would not be intervisible with the most remote parts of the interior on the west side of Ben Loyal and east side of Ben Hope though there could be some intervisibility from some small areas in the centre of the northern plateau area. Effects on the elements leading to the qualities of remoteness and solitude in these areas are considered unlikely.	Negligible
Assessment of Landscape Effects			
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape and its lack of development and expansiveness is considered to be very susceptible to change of the type proposed. Landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed is therefore considered to be **High**.		
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this WLA. Indirect change would take place due to the appearance of the Proposed Varied Development within the eastern landscape context from a few areas including hill and mountain summits, eastern facing slopes and facing areas of the open northern plateau area. The vast majority of the WLA would have no intervisibility of the Proposed Varied Development. Where intervisible, in the eastern context, the Proposed Varied Development would appear larger and closer than existing Strathy North and Bettyhill wind farms and stretch wind farm development in this context further to the south. However, it would still appear relatively distant within the broad expanse. This is anticipated to lead to locally experienced changes to the attributes "*Lack of Construction or Other Artefacts*" and "*Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses*", which may also lead to a small and localised influence on "*Arresting or Inspiring Qualities / Sense of Awe*" in some areas where it may be seen to interrupt the sense of undeveloped expansiveness to the east. As such, a localised degree of change is anticipated in some areas to the Key Qualities, "*A striking, awe inspiring contrast between isolated mountains and open peatland*", "*Towering, steep rocky mountains that are arresting and attract hill walkers" and, "Extensive, exposed peatland and lochs that are awe-inspiring in their simplicity and openness*". Overall, considering the magnitude of landscape change to physical and perceptual attributes and Key Qualities, and the distribution of potential change across the WLA as a whole, the magnitude of change to wildness values within this WLA is considered to be **Low**.		
Effect Significance	The Proposed Varied Development would lead to indirect changes to localised parts of the WLA, where it would form a new feature within the extended eastern context. From high		

Table 4.3.9: WLA 38. Ben Hope – Ben Loyal	
	slopes and summits it would be seen within a wide and expansive context which already features existing turbines of Strathy North and Bettyhill and other more distant wind farms. Whilst the Proposed Varied Development could appear somewhat larger and closer than these existing wind farms, forest, settlement and other contemporary land uses are seen in this context and the Proposed Varied Development would be seen as a part of this managed landscape (see VP8: Sgòr Chaonasaid – Figures 4.15a-c (EIAR Volume 3b)). From some lower areas on the northern plateau and lower eastern facing slopes the Proposed Varied Development could be seen within a less developed or managed context, although from northern areas development and contemporary land use around Tongue is evident VP12: Mhoine House-A838, just outside the WLA boundary gives evidence of this (see Figures 4.19a-c (EIAR Volume 3b)). The drama and awe-inspiring qualities of the mountains within the WLA also draw a greater degree of focus within these areas with distant, external elements less influential. In general, from these areas, the Proposed Varied Development would be likely to appear distant from this WLA with a degree of separation provided by the intervening landform. Nevertheless, the limited changes that are anticipated are predicted to lead to a **Minor** effect on the Key Qualities "*A striking, awe inspiring contrast between isolated mountains and open peatland*", "*Towering, steep rocky mountains that are arresting and attract hill walkers" and, "Extensive, exposed peatland and lochs that are awe-inspiring in their simplicity and openness*". Although these effects could rise to **Minor - Moderate** within a few localised locations, they are not anticipated to be significant in any location. The most remote parts of the WLA, within the isolated corries between the two mountains, would not be affected by the Proposed Varied Development. The overall effect on the WLA is anticipated to be **Minor** and not significant. As no significant effects are anticipated and all the Key Qualities would continue to be present within all the areas at which they are currently experienced, the integrity of the WLA would not be affected.

4 Landscape Character Types Tables

Table 4.3.10: Coastal Crofts and Small Farms [LCT 144] – Caithness & Sutherland [LCT] (OWESG: Part 2b - LCA CT1)	
Landscape Baseline	
Landscape Designation Description	This LCT is made up the narrow settled and farmed fringe around the coast of Caithness and Sutherland. While it is relatively common along the eastern coast, it is more intermittent along the north coast west of Thurso, where it is closely associated with the more fertile land at river mouths and along kyles and sea lochs. Within the Detailed Study Area the LCT comprises small pockets of settlement and sloping pasture, tucked between sheltered sandy beaches and the lower-lying *Sweeping moorland and Flows* or the rough and craggy *Rocky Hills and Moorland*. Larger vegetation in this exposed LCT is limited with rough pasture dotted with gorse, rush and heather moorland being dominant. Settlements are largely made up of crofting communities that have strong connections to the sea with small harbours sited in the sheltered coves at the foot of cliffs. Evidence of a long history of settlement is present throughout the LCT in the form of prehistoric and historic sites. Views within this LCT tend to focus on the details within the settled areas and how they contrast to the wider context of hills, sea, sandy beaches, headlands and islands which combined to create the rich scenic character of the surrounding area.
Key Characteristics	• Narrow, settled and farmed coastal fringe with subtle variations in topography, from long stretches of strongly contained coastal shelves and raised beaches, to smaller pockets at river mouths and squeezed between dunes and areas of *Cnocan – Caithness & Sutherland;* • Pastures and occasional arable fields, most often divided by post and wire fences, with the division of fields marked by crop colour and texture rather than boundaries; • Low stone walls enclosing fields on the shelf above the *High Cliffs and Sheltered Bays* between Dunbeath and Wick; • Little woodland within the more exposed east and north Caithness coasts; • Small woodlands and clumps of trees present at the outlet of more sheltered straths or along the eastern shores of Kyle of Tongue and Loch Eriboll; • Settlement most concentrated where this Landscape Character Type broadens at the mouths of major rivers along the east coast, where larger farms and crofts are concentrated; • Small hunkered-down croft houses and outbuildings loosely clustered or sometimes aligned in a linear fashion on the top of terraces or ridges above the coast or a river floodplain; • More dispersed settlement pattern on the east coast to the north of Brora; • Newer housing most evident to the south of Brora with larger modern houses often infilling spaces between older croft houses and contrasting with the size and form of these original buildings; • A number of settlements, often located at bridging points and at the junction with the straths, many with harbours particularly on the east coast of Sutherland and Caithness; • Major communications routes on the east coast including the A9, the railway and transmission line aligned along the edge of this landscape; • A number of historic sites including churches, castles, mills and cemeteries; • Highly visible landscape, seen from major roads and, on the east Sutherland coast, the railway; and • Complex visual composition of views tending to focus on the detail of houses field patterns and crops, yet with the wider context of backdrop hills and sea adding diversity.
Landscape Value	This LCT offers a small-scale detailed landscape contrasting with the larger remote inland landscapes and open foreboding seascape to the north. The value of parts of the LCT are

Table 4.3.10: Coastal Crofts and Small Farms [LCT 144] – Caithness & Sutherland [LCT] (OWESG: Part 2b - LCA CT1)	
	recognised by their inclusion in the Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA and Kyle of Tongue NSA. While these designations do not cover the whole of the LCT and value is considered to vary across it, it is generally considered to be **Medium**.
Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this LCT which could be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise: • Highly visible landscape, seen from major roads and, on the east Sutherland coast, the railway; and • Complex visual composition of views tending to focus on the detail of houses field patterns and crops, yet with the wider context of backdrop hills and sea adding diversity.
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a moderately valued landscape. The smaller sense of scale is susceptible to some degree of change of the type proposed, however being on the edge of more expansive large-scale landscapes may allow for accommodation of indirect change. The presence of operational turbines in the wider landscape also reduces the sensitivity to some degree. Landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed is therefore considered to be **Medium**.
Potential Effects	Potential indirect effects which could result to this LCT comprise: • Appearance of the Proposed Varied Development to the south could form a new focus which could affect the appreciation of the small-scale nature of the landscape; and • Appearance of the Proposed Varied Development to the south could distract focus away from the complex visual composition of the crofting communities and detailed pattern of the immediate surrounding landscape.
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change and very limited indirect change to the majority of the LCT. Indirect change would be largely limited to the area around Strathy, which would share intervisibility with the operational Strathy North turbines. The Proposed Varied Development would appear at a greater distance to the operational turbines set in a low point to the south along the glen. Taking into account that the majority of the LCT would be unaffected, the overall magnitude of change would be **Low** during construction and operation.
Effect Significance	Although there would be theoretical indirect effects on parts of the LCT, the presence of the operational Strathy North turbines would reduce the prominence of the Proposed Varied Development. Whilst the turbines would form a new feature in views to the south from very limited parts of the LCT, it is not considered that this would result in a noticeable change to its overall character. The effect significance would therefore considered to be **Minor** (and not significant) during construction and operation due to the predicted effects on select southern views from Strathy.

Table 4.3.11: Lone Mountains [LCT 138]	
Landscape Baseline	
Landscape Designation Description	The mountains which make up the *Lone Mountains* LCT lie isolated within expanses of lower-lying open moorland. Their distinctive profiles are visible on the horizon throughout the wider landscape. The mountains are typically located within areas of *Sweeping Moorland and Flows* and *Rocky Hills and Moorland* and feature steep and sweeping concave slopes. Some also have complex and narrow radiating ridges and multiple peaks. Their profiles can vary vastly from very steep on one side to gently rising on the other as exhibited by Ben Hope. Within the wider landscape, Ben Griam Mòr and Ben Griam Beg are relatively small, but very isolated standing out amongst the surrounding *Sweeping Moorland and Flow* in the interior core of Caithness and Sutherland. The isolation of these largely uninhabited mountains and sparse dwarf vegetation allows their full form to be appreciated and makes them prominent landmark features. Their solitary position also offers extensive panoramic views across the surrounding landscape.
Key Characteristics	• Individual mountains forming landmarks seen widely and at considerable distance across expansive lower-lying *Sweeping Moorland and Flows* and *Cnocan – Caithness & Sutherland;* • Mountains possess a distinctive profile usually comprising steep, sweeping, concave slopes, making them look quite elegant and graceful; • Height of mountains varies, but even the smaller mountains can appear high because of their isolation, steep-sided profiles and when seen in juxtaposition with lower-lying *Sweeping Moorland and Flows;* • Peaks generally topped by exposed rock and sparse dwarf vegetation which gradually merges into moorland surrounds; • Ribbons of broadleaf scrub woodland associated with the many water courses that tumble down steep glens; • Largely uninhabited, creating a distinct sense of remoteness, although some of its peaks attract significant numbers of hill walkers, especially during the summer months; and • Peaks offer extensive views of the surrounding area including the distinctive water landscapes of the Flows.
Landscape Value	Due to the simplicity of the surrounding landscapes, these impressive *Lone Mountains* take centre stage, and are valued landmark features in the wider landscape. This is recognised by their inclusion in various landscape designations including NSAs, SLAs, and WLAs. Landscape Value is considered to be **High**.
Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this LCT which could be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise: • Individual mountains forming landmarks seen widely and at considerable distance across expansive lower-lying *Sweeping Moorland and Flows* and *Cnocan – Caithness Sutherland;* • Height of mountains varies, but even the smaller mountains can appear high because of their isolation, steep-sided profiles and when seen in juxtaposition with lower-lying *Sweeping Moorland and Flows;* • Largely uninhabited, creating a distinct sense of remoteness, although some of its peaks attract significant numbers of hill walkers, especially during the summer months; and • Peaks offer extensive views of the surrounding area including the distinctive water landscapes of the Flows.

Table 4.3.11: Lone Mountains [LCT 138]	
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a highly valued landscape. The distinct forms of these *Lone Mountains* are susceptible to change of the type proposed. Landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed is therefore considered to be **High**.
Potential Effects	Potential indirect effects which could result to this LCT comprise: • Turbines to the north may become prominent and distract from the north coast and vistas out to sea; • Appearance of wind turbines to the east may distract from wider views particularly those westward towards the Kyle of Tongue NSA; and • Appearance of turbines may reduce the perceived sense of seclusion and remoteness.
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this LCT. The ZTV suggests that indirect change would be limited to upper slopes facing the Proposed Varied Development. At their nearest this would comprise all 39 turbines being seen to the north of Ben Griam Beg in the context of the operational Strathy North turbines. Construction works would also likely be evident from this area as small movements in the wider landscape. Within the wider Detailed Study Area, the turbines would form part of the eastern horizon. They would be seen in addition to the operational turbines of the Bettyhill and / or Strathy North wind farms, extending the horizontal spread of turbines. Taking into account that the majority of the LCT would be unaffected, the overall magnitude of change for the LCT would be **Low-Medium** during construction and operation.
Effect Significance	The majority of the *Lone Mountains* LCT would not be affected by the Proposed Varied Development. Predicted effects on the LCT within the Detailed Study Area would be limited to north and east facing slopes and summits. For most of these areas, turbines are already a feature of the surrounding landscape. As the Proposed Varied Development would sit within the same area as the operational Strathy North wind farm, they would not represent a new addition to the landscape. They would however increase the number of turbines present within the neighbouring landscape, and would bring turbines closer to the LCT, an effect that would be emphasised by the larger scale of the turbines and could distract from the appreciation of wider views, particularly to the north coast. Given the limited visibility across the wider LCT landscape effects would generally be **Minor** (not significant), with localised **Moderate** (significant) effects during both construction and operation.

Table 4.3.12: Rocky Hills and Moorland [LCT 136]	
Landscape Baseline	
Landscape Designation Description	This LCT is located approximately 3 km from the Proposed Varied Development's turbines at is closest point. It comprises well-defined hills, generally below 500 m and lower-lying rocky moorland. These are characterised by their irregular form and consistent presence of exposed rock including rags, boulders, areas of scree and occasional sheer rock cliff along the coast. Lochans within the rocky edged cavities contribute to the complexity of the landscape. The LCT provides a distinctive backdrop to the surrounding kyles and sea lochs and foreground to the inland *Lone Mountains*. The landscape is largely uninhabited, although remnants of prehistoric and historic features such as cairns, dun, brochs and settlement sites indicated that this was not always the case. The intricate landform of dips, straths, glens and knolls further adds to the sense of seclusion.
Key Characteristics	The key characteristics of the Rocky Hills and Moorland LCT are noted as follows: • Rough landcover with an abundance of scattered rocks, boulders and rock outcrops; • Many lochans sited within rock-edged cavities contributing to the complexity of the rocky moorland; • Pockets of broadleaf woodland and scrub accentuating the rough texture of the rocky moorland; • Particularly distinctive rocky hills lying on the fringes of the Kyle of Tongue and at the head of Loch Eriboll; • A number of often prominent rocky hills outcropping along the coast, increasing scenic diversity; • Extensive moorland found in the Cape Wrath area with less exposed bedrock and some large areas of more gently undulating peatland; • Currently largely uninhabited landscape, although abutting more settled coasts and loch shores; • Numerous prehistoric and historic environment features, with concentrations around the straths and coasts; • Highly visible from the coast road around northwest Sutherland. Lower-lying rocky moorland is important in providing the foreground to spectacular views over the coast and sea and also inland to the *Lone Mountains;* and • Feeling of containment and seclusion, increased by small knolls, dips and narrow valleys.
Landscape Value	This LCT covers a large area with varying landscape values as recognised by its inclusion in parts of the Kyle of Tongue NSA, Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA, Eriboll and East Whiten Head SLA and Ben Hope – Ben Loyal Wild Land Area (WLA 38). It is a valued backdrop to the kyles and sea lochs and foreground to the *Lone Mountains* and while value is considered to vary across the LCT it is generally considered to be **Medium**.
Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this LCT which could be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise: • A number of often prominent rocky hills outcropping along the coast, increasing scenic diversity; • Currently largely uninhabited landscape, although abutting more settled coasts and loch shores; • Highly visible from the coast road around northwest Sutherland. Lower-lying rocky moorland is important in providing the foreground to spectacular views over the coast and sea and also inland to the *Lone Mountains*; and • Feeling of containment and seclusion, increased by small knolls, dips and narrow valleys.

Table 4.3.12: Rocky Hills and Moorland [LCT 136]	
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a varied landscape with differing degrees of value. The presence of existing wind farms reduces the susceptibility to further wind development in some areas although others where scenic qualities and wild characteristics are more prominent are highly susceptible to development. Landscape sensitivity is consequently varied throughout the LCT. It is considered to be **Low** where the landscape is characterised by other wind turbines and **High** where scenic and wild land characteristics predominate.
Potential Effects	Potential indirect effects which could result to this LCT comprise: • Appearance of Proposed Varied Development in the landscape context to the east could distract from the kyles, sea lochs and *Lone Mountains*; • Appearance of Proposed Varied Development in the landscape context to the east, could reduce perceptions of wildness or remoteness; and • Appearance of Proposed Varied Development in the landscape context to the east could diminish the sense of seclusion.
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this LCT. The ZTV indicates fairly widespread potential intervisibility although this is patchy, likely to affect higher ground with lower areas and hollows unaffected. Within the Detailed Study Area, turbines of the Proposed Varied Development would be seen at distances of between 3 km and 19 km and mostly within areas where either the Bettyhill and/or Strathy North wind farms are already visible. Although some lower areas, mostly on the southern edge, would be newly affected. In most cases, Bettyhill wind farm is much closer and prominent, directly affecting the characteristics of this LCT within the Detailed Study Area. The magnitude of change would therefore be considered **Medium** during construction and operation.
Effect Significance	Predicted effects on this LCT would be indirect relating to an increased presence of wind turbines within the surrounding landscape context. The effect would vary between smaller numbers of turbines, appearing above the horizon and larger numbers of turbines seen as part of a wider expansive vista from elevated areas in combination with operational turbines. The most noticeable intervisibility with the Proposed Varied Development would occur within the area to the south and southeast of Bettyhill wind farm. Although the presence of turbines would vary considerably due to the screening provided by the irregular landscape and rocky outcrops, there would be areas with intervisibility of all 39 turbines. VP6 and VP7 (see Figures 4.13c and Figure 4.14c (EIAR Volume 3b)) illustrate worst case examples of this. The Proposed Varied Development could draw focus within some views; however, it would be clearly set within a differing landscape area and in the context of existing turbines. It is generally considered that this would not alter the key characteristics of the LCT as a whole, as it reflects a situation which already exists within the LCT and neighbouring landscapes and large parts of the LCT would remain unaffected by such development. The landscape effect would be anticipated to be **Minor**-**Moderate** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 4.3.13: Rounded Hills – Caithness & Sutherland [LCT 135]	
Landscape Baseline	
Landscape Designation Description	This LCT occurs extensively across Caithness and Sutherland. It is made up of rolling moorland which rises to form broad hills and rounded summits. These hills are predominantly covered with heather moorland, providing a relatively homogenous backdrop to the straths which cut through the LCT. Rough grazing dominates the area's current land use with small fragments of coniferous forest and birch and Scots Pine dominated woodlands occurring on lower hill slopes. The interior of these hills is largely uninhabited, while dispersed crofts, farms and occasional estate buildings are located on the lower slopes at the transitions to the *Strath – Caithness & Sutherland* LCT. Evidence of Peat cutting and abandoned croft buildings and walled fields stand out amidst the heather dominated moorland. Although with archaeological features these indicate past settlement of the area. More modern development is reflected in wind farms which are present in parts of the LCT, particularly the lower hills within the interior.
Key Characteristics	• Rolling hills forming broad, subtly rounded summits but with some more pronounced hills also occurring, these often feature steeper slopes along the coast or where truncated by deep glens; • Hills cut by numerous narrow burns and small lochans lie within dips, corries and on plateau summits; • Predominantly dense heather ground cover and moorland grasses, but also some areas of bog; • Fragments of broadleaf woodland in inaccessible locations; • Scarcely settled with a largely uninhabited interior and widely scattered crofts and farms on lower slopes adjoining straths and farmed landscapes; • Narrow glens and lower hill slopes often rich in archaeology with features such as standing stones, brochs and medieval townships; • Wind farms located in more accessible and generally lower rolling hills, either close to extensive forest or the high voltage transmission line aligned broadly parallel to the southeast Sutherland Coast; • Convex character of hill slopes limiting distant visibility and views of the hill tops when travelling through the landscape; • Views into the interior of the hills very restricted; and • Strong sense of wild character can be experienced within the more remote and little modified parts of this landscape.
Landscape Value	This is an LCT with varying landscape values as recognised by parts of it being included in various SLAs and WLAs. It is a simple landscape that provides the setting and backdrop for the more dramatic surrounding landscapes. Overall landscape value is considered to be **Low - Medium**.
Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this LCT which could be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise: • Wind farms located in more accessible and generally lower rolling hills, either close to extensive forest or the high voltage transmission line aligned broadly parallel to the southeast Sutherland Coast; • Convex character of hill slopes limiting distant visibility and views of the hill tops when travelling through the landscape; and • Strong sense of wild character can be experienced within the more remote and little modified parts of this landscape.
Landscape Sensitivity	This landscape is valued for its upland characteristics and setting for nearby LCTs. While the presence of existing with farm development reduces this susceptibility across the wider LCT, their influence is lower within the Detailed Study Area. Landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed is therefore considered to be **Medium**.

Table 4.3.13: Rounded Hills – Caithness & Sutherland [LCT 135]	
Potential Effects	Potential indirect effects which could result to this LCT comprise: • Turbines present in the wider landscape could reduce sense of remoteness; • Turbines present in the wider landscape could appear within expansive views or erode the contrast between upland and settled areas; and • Turbines present in the wider landscape could create new focal points, changing the perceived sense of scale and distance.
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change to this LCT. The ZTV indicates scattered, but widespread potential intervisibility. This is likely to affect higher ground and northward facing slopes. For the most part, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen within areas where the Strathy North and / or Bettyhill turbines are already visible, although there would be some newly affected areas particularly to the south and northeast between 15 and 20 km from the Proposed Varied Development. In most cases though, the Proposed Varied Development would appear closer and more prominent than the existing turbines. The magnitude of change would therefore be considered **Medium** during construction and operation.
Effect Significance	Predicted indirect effects on this LCT would result from the appearance of the Proposed Varied Development within the wider landscape context to the north. In most cases these areas are already affected by operational turbines and this would not represent a new addition to the landscape. They would however increase the number of turbines present within this neighbouring landscape, and would bring turbines closer to the LCT, an effect that would be emphasised by the larger scale of the turbines and could distract from the appreciation of wider views. While it could result in a small reduction in scenic quality, it is unlikely to result in changes to the intrinsic landscape character. The effect significance would therefore be **Minor-Moderate** (not significant) during construction and operation.

Table 4.3.14: Strath – Caithness & Sutherland [LCT 142] – Caithness & Sutherland [LCT] (OWESG: Part 2b - LCA CT10)	
Landscape Baseline	
Landscape Designation Description	This LCT is made of the major straths of Caithness and Sutherland. These linear landforms generally contain rivers or lochs along their open floors. They range from fairly straight deeply incised troughs to winding valleys with minor side glens. Many are strongly contained by steep-sided *Rounded Hills – Caithness & Sutherland*, although within the detailed study they are more typically boarded by the *Sweeping Moorland and Flows* or *Rocky Hills and Moorland LCTs*. All of the straths feature floodplains that are largely under pasture. With varying semi-improved and rough grazing interspersed on the side slopes. Rough pasture, heather moorland and woodlands tend to increase on upper slopes particularly within the less settled and narrow upper straths. The straths accommodate access roads and other communication enabling concentrations of settlements particularly in the lower parts. Settlement within the upper straths is largely limited to estate lodges, or associated with mixed policy woodlands, or loosely clustered crofts. Evidence of historic settlement is present in the straths in the wider area, and particularly within Strathnaver in the Detailed Study Area. While views are generally focussed along the straths from narrow roads, highly scenic mountain backdrops are often revealed in the upper reaches. Wind farm development is also visible from some of these upper areas.
Key Characteristics	• Straths range from fairly straight deep incised troughs to more winding valleys with a number of minor side glens; • River terraces and hummocky lower side slopes a common feature; • Water is key characteristic with straths accommodating a central river meandering across the floodplain, often traced by clumps of birch and alder; • Lochs in some straths, where a string of small lochs add to the scenic richness of the lower strath; • Areas of wetland often present on the strath floors; • Smooth and fairly large pastures the predominant land cover on the floodplains of the straths, commonly enclosed by wire fences; • Semi-improved pastures, heather and grass moorland and coniferous plantations covering lower side slopes; • Increasing extent of moorland and woodland generally further up the straths where the floodplain narrows and settlement is sparser; • Smaller strip-fields present on often hummockly, lower side slops and associated with croft houses arranged in linear groups raised on terraces above the floodplain and sometimes backed by woodland; • Some crofts within the *Straths* more randomly dispersed or staggered on lower hill slopes; • Occasional small farms located in the broader more fertile parts of the straths. Settlement generally denser within the lower reaches of many straths, especially at bridging points, on the coast and close to major roads; • Many areas rich in archaeology with cairns, roundhouses, brochs and old field systems usually found on side slopes; • Abandoned crofts, particularly within the upper straths and in narrow side glens; • Focus in views from roads provided by a number of estate shooting lodges and clustered, predominantly 19th Century, often estate style buildings; • Narrow roads, commonly aligned along the edge of the floodplain, from which views are strongly channelled by the side slopes; • *Rounded Hills* often forming prominent edges to the straths with shapely well-defined hills, providing a distinctive skyline and scenic backdrop; and • Highly scenic backdrop of mountains often revealed in some of the upper reaches of these straths.

Table 4.3.14: Strath – Caithness & Sutherland [LCT 142] – Caithness & Sutherland [LCT] (OWESG: Part 2b - LCA CT10)	
Landscape Value	This LCT offers a small-scale landscape contrasting with the larger surrounding *Sweeping Moorland and Flows* and *Rocky Hills and Moorland LCTs*. The landscape is valued as a place of shelter and fertile land that supports settlement withing the large exposed landscapes of the north coast. Landscape Value is considered to be **Medium**.
Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this LCT which could be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise: • Focus in views from roads provided by a number of estate shooting lodges and clustered, predominantly 19th Century, often estate style buildings; • Largely narrow roads, (apart from those recently widened for access of timber vehicles) commonly aligned along the edge of the floodplain, from which views are strongly channelled by the side slopes; • Rounded Hills often forming prominent edges to the straths with shapely well-defined hills, providing a distinctive skyline and scenic backdrop; and • Highly scenic backdrop of mountains often revealed in some of the upper reaches of these straths.
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a moderately valued landscape. The smaller sense of scale and enclosure is susceptible to some degree of change of the type proposed. However, the presence of operational turbines in the wider landscape visible from the upper slopes of the straths reduces the sensitivity to some degree. Landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed would be considered to be **Medium**.
Potential Effects	Potential indirect effects which could result to this LCT comprise: • Appearance of the Proposed Varied Development could form a new focus which could affect the appreciation of the enclosed nature of the landscape; and • Appearance of the Proposed Varied Development could distract focus away from the smaller scale visual composition of the straths and the contrast they provide to the surrounding open landscape.
Magnitude of Change	There would be no direct change and very limited indirect change to the majority of the LCT. Indirect change would be focused on the upper east facing slopes of Strathnaver and a small part of the upper west facing slopes of Strath Halladale. Most of these areas already share intervisibility with the operational Strathy North and / or Bettyhill turbines. However, the increased number of turbines within the neighbouring landscape and proximity would likely result in localised notable change to the wider landscape context. Taking into account that the majority of the LCT would be unaffected overall magnitude of change for the would be considered to be **Low-Medium** during construction and operation.
Effect Significance	Although there would be theoretical indirect effects on parts of the LCT, the presence of the operational Strathy North and / or Bettyhill wind farms would reduce the prominence of the Proposed Varied Development. Whilst the turbines would form a new feature in views to the east or west from localised parts of Strathnaver or Strath Halladale respectively, it is not considered that this would result in a very noticeable change to their overall character. The effect significance would therefore be considered **Minor** (and not significant) during construction and operation due to the predicted effects on select southern views from Strathy.

Table 4.3.15: Sweeping Moorland and Flows – Caithness & Sutherland [LCT 134] (OWESG: Part 2b - LCA CT4)	
Landscape Baseline	
Landscape Designation Description	This LCT covers the Proposed Varied Development site and occurs extensively across Caithness and eastern Sutherland, forming a flat, gently undulating and generally smooth landscape. It forms the setting to the Lone Mountains, the distinctive form and prominence of these mountains being accentuated by the simple, open and expansive nature of the low-lying moorland which surrounds them. The area supports blanket bog and a diverse range of wet heath, grassland and mire. Occasional hills stand out, despite their limited height amid the extensive areas of low-lying moorland. Meandering rivers, in shallow valleys create focal features in the sweeping moorlands, while the flows are characterised by intricate networks of water courses, dubh lochans and pool systems, with wet, spongy vegetation. The simple ground-hugging vegetation of the area accentuate the smoothness of the landform and largely uninterrupted skylines. Areas of peat cutting and hagging are conspicuous amongst the heather and grass dominated moorland and mosses. Coniferous forest has a strong presence in some areas, interrupting the continuity of the moorland. Removal of coniferous forest and restoration of underlying blank bog is being undertaken in some areas. Although the area is sparsely settled, it covers a large area and dispersed crofts, farms and estate buildings are present along the edges of the LCT or near straths. These often coincide with green pockets of improved grazing which stand out against the surrounding moorland. Evidence of historic settlement is present throughout the LCT, largely concentrated on the more favourable fertile ground. There are numerous transportation and infrastructure corridors running through this LCT including the Inverness / Thurso Railway, A9, A836, A897 and various transmission lines. Wind farms are also a relatively common feature within the wider LCT.
Key Characteristics	The key characteristics of the Sweeping Moorland and Flows – Caithness & Sutherland LCT are noted as follows: • Gently sloping or undulating landform which lies generally below 350 metres; • Occasional isolated hills of limited height form local landmark features; • Lochs and mature, meandering rivers; • Very distinct flora, dominated by sphagnum mosses, produced by the wetness and infertility of the flows; • Areas of peat cuttings and hagging; • Pockets of improved grazing, mainly within the outer fringes of sweeping moorland; • Coniferous forest forming a dominant characteristic within some parts of this landscape character type. Ribbons of broadleaf woodland occasionally run along the water courses and loch edges; • Very sparsely settled with dispersed crofts, farms and estate buildings largely found on the outer edges of this landscape or near a strath; • Vehicular tracks within part of the landscape; • Wind farms, tracks within parts of the landscape; • Wind farms, transmission lines, the A9 and a network of minor roads are key features within the more modified outer fringes within Caithness; • Long, low and largely uninterrupted skylines offering extensive views across this landscape and result in a feeling of huge space; • Consistent views to the distant *Lone Mountains* and *Rugged Mountain Massif – Caithness and Sutherland*; • Great sense of exposure on areas of flat peatland on upland plateau; and • A strong sense of remoteness is associated within the largely uninhabited inaccessible core flows and moorlands of this landscape.

Table 4.3.15: Sweeping Moorland and Flows – Caithness & Sutherland [LCT 134] (OWESG: Part 2b - LCA CT4)	
Landscape Value	This LCT covers a large area with varying landscape values as recognised by parts of it being included in various SLAs and WLAs. It is a simple, open and expansive nature of the low-lying moorland and flows that accentuates the distinctive form and prominence of the *Lone Mountains* and adds to the areas overall sense of remoteness and inaccessibility. Overall Landscape Value is considered to be **Low - Medium**.
Assessment of Landscape Effects	
Landscape Receptors	The principal aspects of this LCT which could be affected by the Proposed Varied Development comprise: • Occasional isolated hills of limited height form local landmark features; • Very distinct flora, dominated by sphagnum mosses, produced by the wetness and infertility of the flows; • Coniferous forest forming a dominant characteristic within some parts of this landscape character type; • Wind farms, tracks within parts of the landscape; • Wind farms, transmission lines, the A9 and a network of minor roads are key features within the more modified outer fringes within Caithness; • Long, low and largely uninterrupted skylines offering extensive views across this landscape and result in a feeling of huge space; • Consistent views to the distant *Lone Mountains* and *Rugged Mountain Massif – Caithness and Sutherland*; • Great sense of exposure on areas of flat peatland on upland plateau; and • A strong sense of remoteness is associated within the largely uninhabited inaccessible core flows and moorlands of this landscape.
Landscape Sensitivity	This is a varied landscape with differing degrees of value. The presence of existing wind farms particularly within the immediate area reduces the susceptibility to further wind development. Other areas where scenic qualities and wild characteristics are more prominent would be more susceptible to development. Landscape sensitivity is consequently varied throughout the LCT. It is considered to be **Low** where the landscape is characterised by other wind turbines and **Medium** where scenic and wild land characteristics are stronger.
Potential Effects	Potential direct effects which could result to this LCT comprise: • Construction of wind turbines, other infrastructure and access tracks within the LCT could reduce perceptions of isolation and remoteness; • New access tracks could lead to loss of heather moorland, with potential for construction disturbance to lead to changes in habitat types and uniformity of ground cover; • Removal of coniferous forest could alter the character of the LCT within the immediate surrounding area; • Construction works, wind turbines and other infrastructure within the LCT could introduce new focal points which could break the uniformity of the open moorland and reduce perceived scale and distance; and • Wind turbines, access tracks and other infrastructure within the LCT could distract from expansive views and interrupt skylines.
Magnitude of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be located entirely within this LCT including turbines, new access tracks, hardstandings, substation, LiDAR and temporary infrastructure and borrow pits during construction. The ZTV indicates that indirect change would be widespread within around 5 km of the Proposed Varied Development. Beyond this higher ground and facing slopes are more likely to be affected than hollows and glen floors. Much of this area, particularly within 5 km is already affected by the existing Strathy North and Bettyhill wind farms. However, beyond this, particularly to

Table 4.3.15: Sweeping Moorland and Flows – Caithness & Sutherland [LCT 134] (OWESG: Part 2b - LCA CT4)	
	the south and east the Proposed Varied Development would appear closer and, in some cases, would result new indirect effects on the LCT within the Detailed Study Area. The magnitude of change would therefore be considered to be **Medium-High** during construction and operation.
Effect Significance	The Proposed Varied Development would be within and would directly affect this LCT. However, the turbines would be located in an area already indirectly affected by the Strathy North turbines and in some cases the Bettyhill turbines. In addition, this part of the LCT is also currently used for commercial forest. When combined, these factors reduce the sensitivity of these areas to further development. Nevertheless, new turbines and tracks would increase the developed footprint of the immediate area and result in it becoming more strongly characterised by wind turbines. Within the wider LCT, the Proposed Varied Development would usually be seen in association with existing wind turbines, however it would likely increase the visual presence of turbines by occupying a greater part of the horizon, or by the larger scale of turbines in relation to operational turbines in the area. This could increase perception of the development within the surrounding landscape with some potential to diminish the perceived sense of isolation and remoteness. Where not seen in the context of existing turbines, the theoretical visibility would be largely limited to tips and blades seen over intervening landform. During construction, the increased activity and noise would potentially reduce some of the sense of isolation and remoteness within the immediate area. The landscape effect across the wider LCT would be **Moderate** (significant) during construction and operation. During construction this would largely be due to direct effects relating to increased activity levels in the area. During operation turbines would form a close new feature which could distract from the key characteristics of the LCT within the immediate area.

TA 4.4: Visual Assessment Tables

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 4.4: VISUAL ASSESSMENT TABLES

1 Introduction

1.1 This Technical Appendix provides detailed assessment of changes to the view obtained from representative viewpoints (VPs) (Table 4.4.1), route receptors (Table 4.4.2) and settlement receptors (Table 4.4.3) identified as having the potential to gain views of the Proposed Varied Development. Detailed information on the rationale for those locations included in the visual assessment is included in Technical Appendix 4.2: Landscape and Visual Scoping Appraisal (EIAR Volume 4).

1.2 VPs are shown on Figure 4.5a and settlements and routes are shown on Figure 4.5c.

1.3 The assessments of visual receptors, in the following tables, are in accordance with methodology outlined in Section 4.4 of the EIA Report (see Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2)).

1.4 This assessment does not include cumulative visual effects which are discussed in Technical Appendix 4.7 (EIAR Volume 4).

2 Receptors at Viewpoints

Table 4.4.1: Receptors at Viewpoints

Name/ Location/ Type/ Context	Nature of Main View obtained from the Receptor	Distance to nearest visible turbine (approx.)	Visual Sensitivity	Nature of Change	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP1: Ben Griam Beg 283185, 941167 (Refer to Figures 4.8a-c and Figures 4.23a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)) *This VP is located on Ben Griam Beg to the south of the site. It is representative of elevated nearby and middle distance views obtained from this direction.*	This viewpoint has 360˚ panoramic views across the landscape. Ben Griam Mòr is prominent in views to the southeast while views to the north extend to the North Sea with the operational Strathy North wind farm appearing in the midground. To the south and west the skyline is defined by distinctive mountain ranges. The surrounding lower lying moorland is broken up by lochs and lochans, and large patches of commercial forest. Small tracks and roads are also visible at lower elevations.	8.6 km	High	The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be prominently seen in views obtained from the viewpoint to the north. The on-site substation would be visible as a distant element set within the turbines.	Hubs: 39 Blades: 39	High	High	Major	Major
VP2: Cnoc Riabhach 292003, 937695 (Refer to Figures 4.9a-c and Figures 4.24a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)) *This is an elevated hilltop from the north western edge of WLA36: Causeymire – Knockfin Flows, to the southeast of the site. It is representative of elevated views obtained from this part of the WLA.*	Main view obtained from the viewpoint is to the west and southwest. There are extensive views in these directions towards Ben Griam Beg, Ben Griam Mor, and Meall A'Bhuirich. While other views are somewhat constrained by the gently undulating moorland of the top of Cnoc Riabhach there are views of distant mountains to the southeast. The radio mast at Meall a'Bhealaich is visible to the northwest. The overall landscape is a simple one broken up by small lochans and patches of forest can be seen where the glen floors are visible.	16.5 km	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible to the northwest. Parts of the towers of the northernmost turbines would be partially screened by the intervening landform. The turbines would be seen in the context of the existing radio mast.	Hubs: 39 Blades: 39	Medium	Medium	Minor / Moderate	Minor / Moderate

Table 4.4.1: Receptors at Viewpoints

Name/ Location/ Type/ Context	Nature of Main View obtained from the Receptor	Distance to nearest visible turbine (approx.)	Visual Sensitivity	Nature of Change	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP3: Loch nan Clach Geala 295343, 957116 (Refer to Figures 4.10a-c and Figures 4.25a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)) *This VP is found in WLA39: East Halladale Flows and is representative of views obtained from this part of the WLA.*	Views from this VP are largely restricted by the surrounding rolling moorland. Somewhat more open views are available towards the west where the Ben Hope / Ben Loyal range can be seen in the distance. The operational Strathy North wind farm can be seen in the midground in this direction as well. The top of Ben Griam Beg can also be seen over the intervening ridgeline to the southwest. Post and wire fences are visible on the ridge against the skyline to the east.	14.8 km	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible in views to the west and would be seen in the context of the operational Strathy North wind farm turbines. Most of the turbine blades would be seen against the skyline when at their highest rotation, while some would be backclothed by the distant mountains.	Hubs: 39 Blades: 39	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Moderate
VP4: East of Melvich 291737, 964451 (Refer to Figures 4.11a-c and Figures 4.26a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)) *The VP is from the A836 to the northeast of the site. It is representative of middle to longer distance views obtained from this section of the route and the transition from Caithness to Sutherland..*	VP offers views from A-road over the surrounding area with a number of power lines crossing the views. Strathy North wind farm is visible over the horizon line. Main views are channelled along the road eastward and westward, with rolling hills in distance. Views to the north and south of the road are somewhat restricted due to the road's position within the rolling moorland landscape. Overhead lines cross the view to the south.	15.7 km	Low	The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible over the ridge to the southwest in the middle distance, oblique to the direction of travel and away from the focus of views to the sea. The hubs and towers of a large number would be visible. The turbines would be seen in the context of the foreground overhead line.	Hubs: 31 Blades: 39	Low / Medium	Low / Medium	Minor	Minor
VP5: Strathy 284158, 965040 (Refer to Figures 4.12a-c and Figures 4.27a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)) *This VP is representative of worst case scenario view*s obtained *from Strathy and the surrounding area including the A836 (NC500), nearby dwellings and the surrounding hills and glens.*	Main view is along the A836 towards the east and west. Distant views eastward and westward are restricted by the rolling hills. There are open views to the south over low lying grassland, before the ground slopes up towards the hills. Strathy North wind farm is visible over the ridgeline. Residential properties along Strathy Road West form a linear feature to the south defining the edge of foreground field system. Trees are largely associated with houses with a few scattered trees punctuating the fields.	12.5 km	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development turbine blades and a number of hubs and towers would be seen to the south over the ridgeline. They would be seen in the context of the existing Strathy North wind farm which would be in the foreground. The turbines for the Proposed Varied Development would likely appear as an extension to Strathy North wind farm.	Hubs: 23 Blades: 39	Low	Low	Minor	Minor
VP6: Bettyhill Viewpoint 274862, 961925 (Refer to Figures 13a-c and Figures 4.28a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)) *This VP is located at the marked Bettyhill viewpoint and car park on the A836 (N500) to the south of Kirtomy. It is representative of views obtained from sections of this road where the Proposed Varied Development would be visible to the northwest of the site.*	The main view is directed towards the southeast and Loch Meadie. Ben Hope and Ben Loyal are visible in distant views to the west beyond the operational Bettyhill wind farm. Rocky moorland and rolling hills restrict views in other directions.	9.1 km	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development blades of approximately 22 turbines and 12 hubs would be visible to the southeast over the ridge and against the skyline. These would be seen in the context of the existing operational Bettyhill turbines to the west.	Hubs: 12 Blades: 22	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Moderate

Table 4.4.1: Receptors at Viewpoints

Name/ Location/ Type/ Context	Nature of Main View obtained from the Receptor	Distance to nearest visible turbine (approx.)	Visual Sensitivity	Nature of Change	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP7: A836 west of the B871 269437, 957272 (Refer to Figures 4.14a-c and Figures 4.29a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)) *This VP is found on the A836 (NC500) to the northwest of the Proposed Varied Development. It is representative of middle distance views obtained from this stretch of the A-road and potential worst case scenario views as travellers descend into Strathnaver from the west.*	The main views are along the A836 towards the east and west. Views to the north and south are restricted by rolling moorland covered in low level vegetation. While longer distance views are largely restricted by the intervening topography, some rolling hills can be seen in the distance, particularly to the south and east.	9.6 km	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible in the distance to the southeast over the ridgeline against the sky.	Hubs: 29 Blades: 38	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Moderate
VP8: Sgor Chaonasaid 257961, 949822 (Refer to Figures 4.15a-c and Figures 4.30a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)) *This VP is found on a summit within the Kyle of Tongue NSA. It is representative of elevated views obtained from the NSA and from the eastern side of WLA 38: Ben Hope – Ben Loyal.*	This elevated viewpoint provides 360˚ panoramic views across the dramatic mountainous landscape of the National Scenic Area. Several bodies of water are prominent in views from the summit including Loch Loyal, Loch Craggie, Loch an Dherue the Kyle of Tongue and the North Sea. The settlement at Tongue is visible to the north and a number of small roads can be made out in the distance. A number of operational wind turbines are also visible in the distance including Bettyhill wind farm and Strathy North wind farm.	19.4 km	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible in views to the east. They would be seen in the distance as part of the wider landscape in the context of other existing wind farms.	Hubs: 39 Blades: 39	Low / Medium	Low / Medium	Minor / Moderate	Minor / Moderate
VP9: Creag na h-Iolaire 267353, 928879 (Refer to Figures 4.16a-c and Figures 4.31a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)) *This VP is found on an elevated point in WLA35: Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest to the southwest of the Proposed Varied Development. It is representative of elevated views obtained from this part of the WLA.*	This VP provides panoramic views across the surrounding landscape to the northeast through northwest. These views towards the North Sea take in the area from Dunnet Head to the Kyle of Tongue and the lower lying areas between. Commercial forest, including large felled areas and lochs are prominent in the fore – middle ground of these views. A number of wind farms, including Strathy North wind farm, are also visible in the distance. Views southward are more restricted by the rolling moorland of the summit. However, there are glimpses of distant hills, some with operational wind turbines over the intervening topography in the foreground.	22.7 km	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible in distant views to the north. They would be seen in the context of Strathy North wind farm but, would appear closer. They would be seen as a small part within a much larger landscape. A number of the turbine blades would be seen against the distant seascape, over the ridgeline.	Hubs: 39 Blades: 39	Low	Low	Minor	Minor
VP10: Beinn Ratha 294954, 960923 (Refer to Figures 4.17a-c and Figures 4.32a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)) *This VP is found near the cairn on Beinn Ratha in the northern part of WLA39: East Halladale Flows. It is representative of elevated views obtained from WLA 39.*	This VP provides 360˚panoramic views across the surrounding landscape. It provides open views out to the North Sea and views towards the Ben Hope / Ben Loyal range to the west. The settlement of Melvich is visible to the northwest with Strathy Point visible beyond. Overhead lines and steel lattice towers are visible in the midground in views to the northwest and west. Dounreay Power Station is visible to the northeast. A number of wind farms are also visible within the view including: Strathy North wind farm to the west; Ballie to the east; and Hill of Forss to the northeast. Views to the south take in the rolling moorland of the interior of WLA39: East Halladale Flows, with distant hills visible beyond.	16.0 km	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible in views to the west. They would be seen in the context of a number of existing wind farms within the 360˚ view as well as steel lattice towers and the Dounreay Power Station. They would been seen backclothed against the distant hills.	Hubs: 39 Blades: 39	Medium	Medium	Minor / Moderate	Minor / Moderate

Table 4.4.1: Receptors at Viewpoints

Name/ Location/ Type/ Context	Nature of Main View obtained from the Receptor	Distance to nearest visible turbine (approx.)	Visual Sensitivity	Nature of Change	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
VP11: Forsinard 288982, 942360 (Refer to Figures 4.18a-c and Figures 4.33a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)) *Viewpoint near Forsinard Flows National Nature Reserve at the junction of the A897 and Far North Line on the edge of the Bens Griam and Loch nan Clar SLA. It is representative of the views obtained by visitor and road/rail users to the southeast of the site.*	The main view is to the south along the A897 across a low lying landscape to the hills in the distance. Ben Griam Beg, Ben Griam Mòr and Meall a' Bhùirich are prominent against the skyline to the southwest. Towards the southeast, there is an area of commercial forest accessed by a track. Towards the west the RSPB's Flows Lookout is visible standing within the peatland pools of the blanket bog landscape. To the north, trees form a shelterbelt around the Forsinard railway station and the small collection of buildings (including the B&B) that neighbour it.	11.0 km	Low	The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible to the northwest over the ridgeline. They would be seen as blades turning against the skyline. A few hubs would also theoretically be seen within the view.	Hubs: 4 Blades: 25	Low	Low	Minor	Minor
VP12: Moine House 251844, 960034 (Refer to Figures 4.19a-c and Figures 4.34a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)) *This VP is found on the path next to Moine House off of the A838. It is representative of views obtained from Moine House and more distant roadside views from the west.*	The main view is over the foreground moorland towards the Ben Hope and Ben Loyal ranges. Small lochan punctuate the moorland in the foreground. There are also glimpses of the Kyle of Tongue and further out to sea to the northeast. Moine House is prominent in the foreground to the north. Low post and wire fences enclose the ground around the house. The Bettyhill wind farm turbines and radio tower are both visible to the east.	27.3 km	Medium	The blades of a number of the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be visible over the ridgeline to the east. These would be seen in the context of the operational Bettyhill wind farm turbines and the radio tower on Ben Tongue, which also appear against the skyline.	Hubs: 0 Blades: 10	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
VP13 – A836 near Middleton 305958, 969490 (Refer to Figures 4.20a-c and Figures 4.35a-f (EIAR Volume 3b)) *This VP is found on the A836 between Forss and Thurso. It is representative of views obtained by those travelling along this part of the route.*	The main views are along the A836 towards the east and west. There are expansive views to the north towards the sea, whereas views to the south are restricted by rolling fields. Orkney is visible to the northeast on clear days.	29.9 km	Low	The tips of 11 turbine blades from the Proposed Varied Development would be theoretically visible over the fields to the southwest. However, it is likely that grasses and other low lying intervening vegetation would largely screen most of these.	Hubs: 0 Blades: 11	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
VP14 – Dunnet Head 320519, 976504 (Refer to Figures 4.21a-b and Figures 4.36a-b (EIAR Volume 3b)) *This VP is found on the elevated lookout area at Dunnet Head. It is representative of worst-case scenario views obtained from this popular tourist stopping point and the SLA.*	This VP provides 360˚panoramic views across the surrounding landscape and northwards out towards the sea and Orkney. Various lochs are visible to the south with the settlement of Dunnet visible beyond. While there are long ranging views inland, the strong presence of the ocean draws viewers' attention out to sea.	45.9 km	Medium	The tips of most of the Proposed Varied Development turbine blades would be theoretically visible to the southwest. However, given the distance it is highly unlikely that these would be discernible particularly as they would appear beyond intervening operational wind farms.	Hubs: 2 Blades: 36	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

3 Receptors on Routes

Table 4.4.2: Receptors on Routes

Name/ Location/ Type/Context	Nature of Main View obtained from the Receptor	Visual Sensitivity	Nature of Change	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
					Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
A836 - Between Tongue – eastern edge of Detailed Study Area (NC500/ Cycle Route 1) *This winding and undulating route is approximately 55 km and crosses the northern part of the Detailed Study Area between Tongue and the edge of the Detailed Study Area at Reay. It includes a small section of the A838 on its most western edge.*	This route has occasional panoramic views to the North Sea and over dramatic bays. Views around Tongue focus on the Kyle of Tongue and the NSA. From Tongue to Bettyhill views are generally over simple landscapes with dramatic hills in the distance, particularly in views westward. As the route descends into and travels through Strathnaver views are restricted by mature vegetation. Between Bettyhill and Melvich, views southward are channelled by smaller glens, or restricted by topography. The part of route passes through a number of settlements, including Bettyhill, Strathy and Melvich and provides access to many smaller settlements along the coast. The Bettyhill wind farm turbines are prominent in the stretch of the route to the east of Bettyhill. Strathy North wind farm is also present in some southward views, particularly in the area around Strathy. From Melvich to the edge of the Detailed Study Area, views are focused by surrounding landform along the route as it transitions between Caithness and Sutherland. Where there are open views to the north, the sea is the focus.	Low / Medium	Turbine visibility of the Proposed Varied Development would be intermittent with the nearest visible turbine appearing at a distance of approximately 8.3 km. It would range from distant structures visible against the eastern skyline from elevated parts of the route, to visibility in views to the south particularly from central parts of the route where the topography drops at glens. From the central and eastern parts of the route, the Proposed Varied Development would largely be seen as an extension to Strathy North wind farm, with blades and hubs visible behind the existing turbines. From the most western portion, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen in the context of the existing Bettyhill wind farm turbines, but at a greater distance. Blade hubs and tips would be visible.	0 - 39	Negligible (Localised Low/ Medium)	Negligible (Localised Low/ Medium)	Negligible (Localised Minor or Moderate)	Negligible (Localised Minor or Moderate)
A836 - From Tongue south to the edge Detailed Study Area *This 18 km single track stretch of the A836 travels generally north / south across open and remote moorland running parallel to Loch Loyal for much of its length.*	Loch Loyal is a prominent feature in views particularly along the middle portion of the route when it runs alongside the loch. Rounded hills form a barrier to views to the west and mark the transition to the Ben Hope / Ben Loyal wild land area beyond.	Medium	Visibility of the Proposed Varied Development along this route is limited and focused in two areas, to the north and south of Loch Loyal. The nearest visible Proposed Varied Development turbine would be seen at a distance of approximately 16.1 km. The turbine blades would be seen in the distance against the skyline to the east from the northern part of the route. The operational turbines of Bettyhill and Strathy North wind farms would often also be visible in this area. From the southern ZTV patch, views would be across the loch with few other man-made features in the view.	0 - 39	Negligible (Localised Medium)	Negligible (Localised Medium)	Negligible (Localised Moderate)	Negligible (Localised Moderate)
A897 *This 35 km route runs north - south from the A836 east of Melvich south to the edge of the Detailed Study Area near Kinbrace. It passes through Strath Halladale and Forsinard.*	The main views along this north / south A-road are westward over Strath Halladale towards scattered residential properties. The route runs parallel to railway for part of its length, although trains are infrequent features in the landscape. Westward views from the southern portion are focused on Ben Griams. Views within the central portion to northeast and west are over commercial forest. The 275 kV Dounreay steel lattice towers feature in eastward views along the northern part of the route where Connagill substation is also a prominent feature.	Low / Medium	The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be largely imperceptible along the majority of the route. The nearest visible turbine would be seen at a distance of approximately 8.6 km for a short stretch between Trantelbeg and Breacrie. Some blades would be visible over the intervening ridge from Forsinard to Loch An Ruathail (approximately 11 km away to the southeast). The ZTV also indicates that there could be intermittent visibility through the northern part of the route particularly around Golval (to the northeast over 12.5 km away).	0 - 39	Low (Localised Medium)	Low (Localised Medium)	Negligible (Localised Minor/ Moderate)	Negligible (Localised Minor/ Moderate)
B871 (North) *This 15 km north / south route travels through Strathnaver from the A836 to the B873.*	Views directed largely towards the north and south, depending on the direction of travel. Views towards the east and west are constrained by topography, mature vegetation on strath floor. Scattered houses and farmsteads line the route.	Low	While there would be intermittent theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development along small parts of the route, the majority of turbines would be screened by intervening landform. Where turbines would be seen, a small number of blades would be visible over the ridge to the east. The nearest turbine would be seen at a distance of approximately 5.3 km. Along the northern part of the route mature vegetation would also provide some screening of these views.	0 - 24	Low	Low	Minor	Minor

Table 4.4.2: Receptors on Routes

Name/ Location/ Type/Context	Nature of Main View obtained from the Receptor	Visual Sensitivity	Nature of Change	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
					Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
B871 (South) *This generally east / west 25 km stretch of the route runs south of the Bens Griam connecting the B873 with the A897 at Kinbrace.*	Open views over undulating moorland, hills visible in the distance, occasional views of lochs. Ben Griam Beg and Ben Griam Mòr and Meall a' Bhuirich are prominent to the North, particularly as the route passes through the SLA.	Medium	The ZTV shows limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development along this route. If visible, the turbines would be seen approximately 10.4 km away as a few tips in views to the north. It is likely that low lying vegetation and moorland scrub would make these largely imperceptible.	0 - 6	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
B873 *This 13 km route travels in a northeast / southwest direction from the B871 through the southern part of Strathnaver and along Loch Naver to the edge of the Detailed Study Area.*	Views are largely contained by the slopes of the strath and mature coniferous forest. Commercial forestry operations are a common part of the view. Along Loch Naver, views open out more and more distant hills can be seen.	Low	The ZTV shows limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development along this route. If visible, the tips of a few turbines would be seen to the northeast at a distance of approximately 11.2 km at their nearest.	0 - 2	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Far North Railway Line *This 27 km stretch of the rail route passes through the south eastern part of the Detailed Study Area between Altnabreac and Kinbrace. It passes through Forsinard as it changes direction from east / west to north / south.*	The views from the railway change from a north / south to east / west focus and vice versa depending on the direction of travel at Forsinard. Regardless of the direction though, views are largely over moorland and commercial forest. Along the southern part of the route, views to the west are onto the Bens Griam and Loch nan Clar SLA, where the hills are a prominent and defining feature. Around the station itself, views are contained by mature vegetation and landform as the train travels through cuttings.	Low	The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be theoretically visible from approximately two thirds of the route at a distance of approximately 10.6 km at their nearest. As the train travels east / west, views of the turbines would be largely imperceptible due to the north / south orientation of windows along this stretch. The turbines would be perpendicular or very oblique to the views from the windows. As the train travels north / south, some turbine blades could be seen out of the westward looking windows over the ridgeline. Due to the direction of travel these would likely only be seen when the train is travelling northward.	0 - 39	Negligible / Low	Negligible / Low	Negligible	Negligible
Scottish Hill Track 344: Strath Halladale (Trantlebeg) to Strathy *This 39 km route connects Strath Halladale with Strathy. It passes through areas of commercial forest, felled areas, open moorland and near the operational Strathy North wind farm.*	This route passes through a very changeable landscape. Large parts of the surrounding coniferous planting have been felled, opening up views to the surrounding 'Flow Country' moorland and bog as part of nature conservation efforts. The Bens Griam dominate views from the southern portion of the route. Strathy North wind farm is prominent in views along much of the route, particularly the northern section that passes very close to it.	Medium	While turbines are already a feature along this route, the Proposed Varied Development would be very prominent along the middle part of this route as it passes directly through the site. This would be even more so during construction, particularly as traffic travels to and from site.	0 - 39	High	Medium / High	Major	Moderate
Scottish Hill Track 342 – Crask Inn to Badanloch Lodge *A small (approximately 12 km) part of this walking route runs from Badanloch Lodge to Loch Choire in the south western part of the Detailed Study Area.*	This part of this walking route crosses moorland. Views are open and take in the many lochs, lochans and Ben Armine to the south.	Medium	The ZTV shows theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development along this route between Loch an Altan Fhearna and the edge of the Detailed Study Area. However, as only the tips of a very few turbines would be visible, at a distance of over approximately 16.4 km, it is unlikely that they would result in a perceptible change.	0 - 7	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Scottish Hill Track 343 Halkirk to Forsinain or Braemore *This 16 km route is part of a larger walking route across the Flow Country. This particular section between Altnabrec and Forsinain weaves its way through a series of forest plantations many of which have seen recent felling.*	This particular section between Altnabrec and Forsinain weaves its way through a series of forest plantations many of which have seen recent felling. Wider views of the surrounding landscape are generally more limited Sletill Hill and Ben Griam Beg in the distance add visual diversity.	Medium	While the ZTV shows large areas of potential visibility along this route, it is likely that intervening mature forest would screen many of these views. Where visible, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen at a distance of at least 10.3 km over the western horizon.	0 - 39	Low	Low	Minor	Minor

Table 4.4.2: Receptors on Routes

Name/ Location/ Type/Context	Nature of Main View obtained from the Receptor	Visual Sensitivity	Nature of Change	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
					Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
Core Path SU04.02 – Torrisdale – Invernaver, Coast Route *This 4 km coastal path crossing the dunes of Torrisdale bay skirting around Druim Chuibhe connecting Invernaver and Torrisdale*	Views from this coastal path are focused out to sea. Views inland (southward) are restricted by the bluffs.	Medium	The ZTV shows intermittent theoretical visibility along this path. Where visible, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen at a distance of at least 10.9 km, as blades and tips over the ridgeline to the southeast.	0 - 14	Low	Low	Minor	Minor
Core Path SU04.04 – Clachan Burn (Bettyhill to Bettyhill Community Turbines Loop) *This nearly 6 km core path connects Bettyhill, the community turbines and the A836 near the turn off for Crask and Farr.*	Bettyhill wind farm turbines are prominent in views along this route as it provides access to the turbines. Other views are over rolling rough grazing and moorland. Rocky outcrops punctuate the landscape. Loch Mor features in views as the western part of the route passes close to it.	Medium	The ZTV shows theoretical visibility along much of this core path. Where visible, the Proposed Varied Development turbines would appear over the ridgeline to the southeast at a distance of at least 8.3 km. Visibility would range from a few blades and tips to a larger number of turbines from higher elevations.	0 - 39	Low / Medium	Low / Medium	Minor / Moderate	Minor / Moderate
Core Path SU04.05 – Kirtomy – Cnoc Mor Circuit *This 3.5 km route follows tracks leading up to radio mast across moorland from Kirtomy and the A836.*	The mast on Cnoc Mor is prominent along the route particularly on the approach from the A836. On the approach from Kirtomy, the sea, farms and coast draw viewers' attention to the north and west. From the highest point of the route, at the mast, there are panoramic views both out to sea and inland. The Ben Hope / Ben Loyal range is prominent to the southwest as are other more distant hills to the south. A small overhead line connecting to the mast is a regular feature in views along the route.	Medium	The ZTV shows theoretical visibility along the eastern stretch of this route as it ascends Cnoc Mor to the mast. Where visible, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen from a distance of at least 10 km, from the part of the route to the south in the context of the existing overhead line and the turbines of Bettyhill and Strathy North wind farms.	0 - 39	Low / Medium	Low / Medium	Minor / Moderate	Minor / Moderate
Core Path SU24.05 – Ben Tongue Circuit *This 4 km route leads up to Ben Tongue to the east of Tongue from the A836.*	This core path offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. While the mast is one of the more prominent features at the top, the focus of the view westward is over the Kyle of Tongue and the coastline.	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen in the distance (at least 17.8 km away) to the southeast. The blades and hubs would be seen against the skyline in the context of the much wider view including operational Bettyhill wind farm and Strathy North wind farm.	0 - 39	Low / Medium	Low / Medium	Minor	Minor

4 Receptors at Settlements

Table 4.4.3: Receptors at Settlements

Name/ Location/ Type/Context	Nature of Main View obtained from the Receptor	Distance to nearest visible turbine (approx.)	Visual Sensitivity	Nature of Change	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
Strathy (north of the A836 and east of the River Strathy)	Orientation of dwellings, other buildings and views is mixed, although most have clear views across the lower lying fields at the base of the strath to the other parts of Strathy. Strathy North wind farm is clearly visible in views to the south. Views northward to the sea are limited due to variations in the landform.	12.9 km	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be seen over the ridgeline to the south in the context of the existing Strathy North wind farm which would be in the foreground. They would likely appear as an extension to Strathy North wind farm.	0 - 39	Low/ Medium	Low/ Medium	Minor/ Moderate	Minor/ Moderate
Strathy (south of the A836 and east of the River Strathy)	Collection of dwellings and farms south of the A836 with views largely oriented to the east and west over fields and moorland beyond. Smaller watercourses leading to the River Strathy are lined by low rise vegetation and scrub. Distant views are largely contained within the strath by the surrounding landform. Strathy North wind farm can be seen in views to the south. overhead lines can also be seen crossing the landscape from east to west.	12.0 km	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development turbine blades, hubs and intermittently towers would be seen over the ridgeline to the south. They would be seen in the context of the existing Strathy North wind farm which would be in the foreground. They would likely appear as an extension to Strathy North wind farm.	4 – 39	Low / Medium	Low / Medium	Minor / Moderate	Minor / Moderate
Strathy (west of the River Strathy)	Collection of one to two storey dwellings, village hall and inn with mixed orientation, main views are northward over either the A836 or local access road towards the sea. Other views are largely of rolling rough grazing with moorland beyond.	12.5 km	Low	The Proposed Varied Development would be largely screened from view by intervening landform. From higher elevations turbine tips could be visible but they would be largely imperceptible within the wider view and in the context of Strathy North wind farm.	0 - 10	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Strathy Point	Dwellings of mixed orientation, main views towards the east over the water.	15.5 km	Low / Medium	Elevated houses could have oblique views towards the Proposed Varied Development. The turbines would be seen in the context of the operational Strathy North wind farm.	0 - 39	Low / Medium	Low / Medium	Minor	Minor
Baligill	A loose grouping of farmsteads with views across gently rolling fields and moorland. The sea provides the contrast to the surrounding landscape and draws viewers' attention northward.	13.9 km	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen over intervening landform as blades and hubs. At higher elevations some of the towers would also be visible.	0 - 39	Low	Low	Minor	Minor
Brawl	Grouping of farmsteads with views to North Sea and fields towards moorland to the east and south. Views to the west are restricted by rising landform.	13.0 km	Low	Intermittent turbine visibility along minor road leading to and from settlement. The ZTV shows some theoretically visibility, however, actual visibility would most likely be constrained to the very tips of turbine blades in the distance towards the southwest.	0 - 30	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Lednagullin	Farmsteads of mixed orientation, largely overlooking Armadale Bay. Bus stop, post box and telephone box are all located at the turn off from the A836. Views are drawn to the sea to the north. Views in other directions are over fields and moorland. Distant views are largely constrained by mid-distance landform.	11.4 km	Low	The Proposed Varied Development turbine blades and some hubs would be seen to the south over the ridgeline of mid-distance landform. They would be seen in the context of the overhead line running along the southern side of the A836.	3 - 35	Low / Medium	Low / Medium	Minor	Minor

Table 4.4.3: Receptors at Settlements

Name/ Location/ Type/Context	Nature of Main View obtained from the Receptor	Distance to nearest visible turbine (approx.)	Visual Sensitivity	Nature of Change	No. of turbines theoretically visible	Magnitude		Effect	
						Construction	Operation	Construction	Operation
Crask / Farr	Collection of farmsteads with northward views overlooking fields towards Farr Bay. Views westward are over a rolling rough grazing landscape with Ben Hope and Ben Loyal in the distance. Views eastward restricted by topography.	10.7 km	Low / Medium	The Proposed Varied Development turbine blades hubs and towers would be visible over ridgeline towards the southeast. Many would be seen against the skyline.	0 - 39	Low / Medium	Low / Medium	Minor / Moderate	Minor / Moderate
Modsary / Skerray	Dispersed farmsteads with mixed orientation. Views are largely over rough grazing, moorland and rocky outcrops. While distant views are largely contained by surrounding topography, Ben Hope and Ben Loyal are intermittently visible to the southwest and the sea is intermittently visible to the north.	16.4 km	Low	The Proposed Varied Development turbine visibility would be very intermittent. Although ZTV shows some theoretical visibility, actual visibility would likely be limited to tips in the far distance to the southeast.	0 - 39	Low	Low	Minor	Minor
Skelpick	Linear collection of farms and homes set on the eastern slopes of Strathnaver. Views are largely contained within the strath and focused to the north and south along the access road. Overhead lines connect to the individual dwellings. Mature trees around some of the properties act as a wind break and provide an element of screening.	6.9 km	Medium	The Proposed Varied Development turbine blades and some hubs would be visible over the ridgeline to the southeast.	5 - 24	Medium	Medium	Minor / Moderate	Minor / Moderate
Forsinard	Collection of buildings focused around the train station. Main views towards the east and west are contained by mature forest and topography. Mature shelterbelts further restrict views.	11.0 km	Low	Views of the Proposed Varied Development turbines from within the grouping would be largely screened by mature coniferous trees. Towards the edge of the cluster there could be views of blades over intervening landform. However, these would likely be partially filtered by intervening vegetation.	24 - 32	Negligible / Low	Negligible / Low	Negligible / Minor	Negligible / Minor

TA 4.5: Cumulative Developments included in the Assessment

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 4.5: CUMULATIVE DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDED IN THE ASSESSMENT

1 Cumulative Developments

1.1 In consultation with THC, a total of seven cumulative developments were identified within a search area of 60km from the outermost turbines of the Proposed Varied Development as these were considered most likely to combine with the Proposed Varied Development to result in potential cumulative landscape and visual effects (see Figure 4.6b (EIAR Volume 3a)). These cumulative developments are listed in Table 4.5.1 below.

1.2 In line with best practice[1], scoping sites are not generally included in cumulative landscape and visual assessments due to the uncertainty surrounding how the proposals may evolve prior to the final submissions. However, THC requested that Ackron and Armadale wind farms be included in the CLVIA for the Proposed Varied Development due to their proximity.

Table 4.5.1: Cumulative Developments

Wind Farm	Status	Number of Turbines	Tip Height
Baillie wind farm	Operational	21	110 m
Bettyhill wind farm	Operational	2	119 m
Strathy North wind farm	Operational	33	110 m
Limekiln wind farm	Consented	21	126 - 139 m
Strathy Wood wind farm	In Planning	13	180 m
Ackron wind farm	In Scoping	12	149.9 m
Armadale wind farm	In Scoping	23	180 m

[1] Scottish Natural Heritage, Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments (2012).

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TA 4.6: Cumulative Landscape Assessment Tables

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 4.6: CUMULATIVE LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT TABLES

1 Introduction

1.1 Cumulative effects are those that occur as a result of the construction of more than one development of similar type within the landscape. In terms of landscape character, cumulative landscape effects may result where a number of wind energy developments combine, increasing the prevalence of wind turbines within a landscape to an extent where they may become a defining characteristic.

1.2 The cumulative landscape assessment considers the predicted cumulative effect resulting from the addition of the Proposed Varied Development to the cumulative development baseline (refer to Figure 4.6b: Cumulative Developments Included in the Assessment (EIAR Volume 3a), Technical Appendix 4.5 (EIAR Volume 4) and Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2)).

1.3 In consultation with THC a total of seven cumulative developments were identified as most likely to combine with the Proposed Varied Development to result in cumulative landscape and visual effects (see Figure 4.6b (EIAR Volume 3a)). These are listed below. Further details on each are provided in EIAR Volume 4: Technical Appendix 4.5.

- Baillie wind farm (Operational);
- Bettyhill wind farm (Operational);
- Strathy North wind farm (Operational);
- Strathy Wood wind farm (Application);
- Limekiln wind farm (Consented);
- Ackron wind farm (Scoping); and
- Armadale wind farm (Scoping).

1.4 In line with best practice[1], scoping applications are not generally included in cumulative landscape assessment due to the uncertainty surrounding how the proposal may evolve prior to the final submission. However, THC requested that Ackron and Armadale wind farms be included in the CLVIA for the Proposed Varied Development due to their proximity.

1.5 For the purposes of the assessment, it is assumed at all cumulative developments would be constructed and operational.

1.6 As the focus of the CLVIA is on identifying significant effects. Receptors which were identified as experiencing a less than Minor landscape effect (see EIAR Volume 4: Technical Appendix 4.3) were scoped out of the CLVIA as it is considered that these would not contribute to a significant cumulative effect. The following landscape receptors are therefore included in the assessment.

Landscape Character Types (LCTs)

- Coastal Crofts and Small Farms (LCT 144);
- Lone Mountains (LCT 138);
- Rocky Hills and Moorland (LCT 136);
- Rounded Hills – Caithness and Sutherland (LCT 135);
- Strath – Caithness and Sutherland (LCT 142); and
- Sweeping Moorland and Flows (LCT 134).

[1] Scottish Natural Heritage, Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments (2012).

Designated and Protected Landscapes

- Kyle of Tongue NSA;
- Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA;
- Ben Klibreck and Loch Choire SLA;
- Bens Griam and Loch nan Clar SLA;
- The Flow Country and Berriedale Coast SLA;
- WLA 35: Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest;
- WLA 36: Ben Hope – Ben Loyal; and
- WLA 39: East Halladale Flows WLA.

Notes on Cumulative Assessment

1.7 The above areas have been assessed in accordance with the Cumulative Landscape Methodology outlined in Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2). The cumulative assessment of landscape character areas is presented first, as this feeds into the assessment of designated and protected landscapes. The assessment is supported by a range of Cumulative Wirelines, included as Figures 4.8 – 4.21 (EIAR Volume 3b) and Cumulative ZTVs, included as Figures 4.7a-h (EIAR Volume 3a).

1.8 This Technical Appendix should be read in conjunction with the baseline landscape descriptions and assessment of landscape effects included in Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual Amenity (EIAR Volume 2), and Technical Appendix 4.3: Landscape Assessment Tables (EIAR Volume 4).

1.9 For the purposes of the cumulative assessment predicted effects for construction are assumed to be the same as for operation unless otherwise stated.

2 Landscape Character Types

Table 4.6.1: Coastal Crofts and Small Farms LCT 144		
Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	None of the cumulative developments are within this LCT. However, the Armadale wind farm turbines would be within 1 km, the Bettyhill wind farm turbines are within 1.5 km and the Ackron wind farm turbines would be within 2 km of this LCT. These would form prominent features which affect large parts of the LCT particularly along the southern edge. Small parts of the LCT would theoretically be affected by Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms, but they would be less prominent appearing in the middle to far middle distance as blades and tips.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen appearing on the southern skyline from some southern parts of tracts of this LCT in combination with other cumulative developments. It would not increase the extent of the surrounding skyline occupied by wind turbines and would be likely to be perceived as a part of the same development cluster as Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms. There would be very few parts of the LCT that the Proposed Varied Development would affect which are not already affected by other cumulative developments. Given the effect of the Bettyhill, Armadale and Ackron wind farm turbines, it is not considered that the Proposed Varied Development would lead to a noticeable increase in effect on the character of this LCT.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low	
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Minor (not significant)	

Table 4.6.2: Lone Mountains LCT 138		
Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application*	No cumulative developments directly affect this LCT. All of the sites would be theoretically visible from similar areas. The majority of indirect effects occur on small areas of summits and high north and east facing slopes of the LCT tracts. Given the different orientation of the tracts, perceptions of the turbines change across them, ranging from a single cluster to multiple clusters in the distance. There would

Table 4.6.2: Lone Mountains LCT 138		
	Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	be little to no influence on the southern or western faces, or internal valley slopes. Where visible, the turbines would appear in the distance to the northeast combining to give an impression of wind farm development to the northeast. However, given the distance and clear separation, they would have a limited influence on the immediate character of the LCT.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	While there would be no direct change to this LCT, the Proposed Varied Development would affect parts of the LCT not already affected by the cumulative developments. However, it would normally be perceived as a landscape feature to the north or east in combination with the cumulative developments. The Proposed Varied Development would appear closer and as a result at a somewhat larger scale. This would likely result in a noticeable change to some parts of the LCT. However, this would have a limited effect on the key landscape characteristics due to the limited visibility across the wider LCT and the effects of the other nearby cumulative developments.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low - Medium	
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Minor (not significant)	

Table 4.6.3: Rocky Hills and Moorland LCT 136		
Cumulative Capacity Value	Medium	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	Within the detailed study area this LCT is directly affected by Bettyhill and Strathy North wind farms and would be directly affected by Armadale wind farm. Between them, these turbines would influence much of the LCT, particularly in the area between Strathnaver and Lednagullin. Further west, beyond Strathnaver, visibility would become more intermittent, with the turbines being wholly or partially screened by the rolling rocky landscape. Strathy Wood and Ackron wind farms, would affect similar areas of the eastern part of the LCT. However, they would be seen beyond those directly affecting the LCT and would therefore have less influence on its character. Visibility of Limekiln and Baillie wind farms would be much more limited. Where visible the turbines would be seen as distant tips in combination with the closer more prominent turbines.

Table 4.6.3: Rocky Hills and Moorland LCT 136		
		Wind turbines are therefore experienced as a feature throughout this landscape, at varying distances and prominence.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium - High	
Nature of Change	Intervisibility of the Proposed Varied Development would largely be limited to parts of the LCT that are already affected by the cumulative developments. The turbines would appear in the southern / south eastern context and would almost always be seen as part of a grouping with Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms. Although the Proposed Varied Development could lead to a perceptible increase in wind turbines within this context, given the level of effect which would already occur in relation to the parts of the LCT affected, it is considered that this would be unlikely to alter the characteristics or values of the LCT.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Negligible - Low	
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Negligible – Minor (not significant)	

Table 4.6.4: Rounded Hills – Caithness and Sutherland LCT 135		
Cumulative Capacity Value	Medium	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	While no cumulative developments would directly affect this LCT they would theoretically affect similar areas indirectly. The majority of indirect effects would occur on summits and higher north and west facing slopes of the southern LCT tracts and the south facing slopes of the tract near Farr Point. From the south western tract Strathy Wood, Strathy North and Armadale wind farms would have the greatest influence appearing as turbines against the skyline in the middle distance. From the south western tract the cumulative development turbines would appear more distant and as distinct clusters. The smaller tract near Farr Point would be more heavily influenced by Armadale and Bettyhill wind farms than other developments, due to their proximity.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium	
Nature of Change	There would be no direct change to this LCT by the Proposed Varied Development. The ZTV indicates scattered, but widespread potential intervisibility with the cumulative developments. This is likely to affect higher ground and northward facing slopes. For the most part the Proposed Varied Development turbines would be seen within areas already influenced by the cumulative developments. From the southern tracts they would appear closer and as a result at a somewhat larger scale than the cumulative development turbines. This would likely result in a noticeable increase in wind turbines seen	

Table 4.6.4: Rounded Hills – Caithness and Sutherland LCT 135	
	from some parts of the LCT and a perceptible increase to other parts. However, given the effect which would already occur in relation to the parts of the LCT affected, this is considered unlikely to noticeably alter the characteristics or values of LCT. This is particularly the case when taking into account that the majority of the LCT would not be affected.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low - Medium
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Minor (not significant)

Table 4.6.5: Strath – Caithness and Sutherland LCT 142		
Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	None of the cumulative developments have a direct effect on this LCT. Turbines and blades of Ackron wind farm would be particularly prominent along the northern skyline from much of the Strath Halladale tract of this LCT. Within the Strathnaver tract Bettyhill, Armadale, Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would form a noticeable feature against the eastern skyline, from the upper east facing slopes of the strath. Intervisibility with the Strath Borgie tract would be much more limited and unlikely to influence the key characteristics of the LCT.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium – High	
Nature of Change	There would be no direct change and very limited indirect change to the majority of the LCT by the Proposed Varied Development. Indirect change would be focused on the upper east facing slopes of Strathnaver and a small part of the upper west facing slopes of Strath Halladale which are already influenced by the cumulative developments. There would be some new areas of influence within Strathnaver, however, these would be largely limited to blades over the ridgeline to the southeast that would sometimes be partially screened by mature vegetation. Although an increased number of turbines would be perceived, this would be very unlikely to lead to any greater effect given the theoretical prominence of Ackron wind farm in Strath Halladale and influence of other developments to the same areas in other tracts of the LCT.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low - Medium	
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Minor (not significant)	

Table 4.6.6: Sweeping Moorland and Flows LCT 134		
Cumulative Capacity Value	High	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	Within the detailed study area, this LCT would be directly affected by Strathy North, Strathy Wood, Ackron and Limekiln wind farms. Bettyhill, Armadale and Baillie wind farms would also have indirectly influence the LCT. Strathy North, and Strathy Wood wind farms would have the greatest influence in the central part of the LCT where they would be prominent features. Located just outwith the LCT, Armadale wind farm would also be a prominent feature that influences this area. Ackron and Limekiln wind farms would directly affect the north eastern part of the LCT and feature prominently from this area westward to the eastward facing slopes of Strathnaver. Wind turbines would therefore be experienced as a feature throughout the north and eastern parts of this landscape, at varying distances and prominence. Intervisibility from the LCT would be much more scattered and limited in the southern and western parts of the Detailed Study Area.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low	
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be located entirely within this LCT. It would form part of a grouping with Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms and would therefore directly affect it. It would increase the area directly affected by wind turbines but would normally be perceived as a landscape feature in combination with these other cumulative developments. However, there are few areas which would be newly affected when taking into account the influence of other cumulative developments. Overall, the increase in turbines within this LCT would likely be noticeable close to the site, however, this would have limited effect on landscape characteristics due to the effects of other nearby cumulative developments which would be very prominent in this area. As the cumulative developments affect this LCT, wind turbines would therefore already be characteristic to some degree. While the Proposed Varied Development would reflect the pattern of wind development throughout this LCT, there would be some areas where a greater part of the context may be seen to be developed. To the south and west there would be some new areas of intervisibility without any of the cumulative developments. From these areas the turbines would largely appear in small numbers as distant tips against the skyline.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low	
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Minor (not significant)	

3 Designated and Protected Landscapes

Table 4.6.7: Kyle of Tongue NSA		
Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	None of the cumulative developments have direct effect on the NSA. Indirect effects on the NSA would generally take the form of distant wind turbines on the eastern horizon. Often seen as two or three clusters, all of the cumulative developments would have some intervisibility with some of the upper summits and elevated ridges and slopes of the NSA. However, given the distance and the wider context of the NSA, these would have little effect on the character of the NSA.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	Landscape Character The Proposed Varied Development would be seen in combination with the cumulative developments along the eastern horizon and would have similar intervisibility to these. The majority of the NSA would be unaffected. Apart from a small area along the southern boundary of the NSA at the A836 and a small increased area along the western slopes of the Kyle, the Proposed Varied Development would affect areas that already have intervisibility with the cumulative developments. Although the increase in wind turbine numbers on the eastern horizon would be perceptible in some areas, the presence of the cumulative development turbines establishes this context as one occupied by turbines and therefore any noticeable change to landscape characteristics would be unlikely, as described for the Rocky Hills and Moorland LCT, Coastal Crofts and Small Farms LCT and associated parts of the Lone Mountains LCT, in the tables above. Special Qualities Potential changes which would be perceived in the NSA as a result of the Proposed Varied Development, when considered in addition to the cumulative developments would likely to be small and barely discernible as described above. There is the potential that the increased number of turbines could be perceived in some views, which could influence some elements of the 'ever-present backdrop of mountains', 'The Kyle – a link from an inhabited coast to a wild moorland', and 'Scale, from domestic to monumental' Special Qualities. However, given the context of existing development, this would be a very small effect.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low	
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Minor (not significant)	

Table 4.6.8: Farr Bay, Strathy and Portskerra SLA		
Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	The cumulative ZTV suggests that apart from a few sheltered bays there would be widespread intervisibility of this SLA with the cumulative developments to some degree or another. Bettyhill, Armadale, and Ackron wind farms would have the greatest influence on the SLA due to their proximity to the southern edge. Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would be intervisible with some areas of higher ground and along some of the smaller glens leading southward as a separate cluster beyond the prominent foreground turbines. The influence of Baillie and Limekilns wind farms would be largely focused on the eastern part of the SLA and as such they would have minimal visibility and limited effect on the character of the SLA.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium - High	
Nature of Change	Landscape Character There would be no direct change to this landscape. The ZTV indicates that intervisibility of the Proposed Varied Development would be scattered and largely limited to south facing views from cliff tops. It would be seen in combination with Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms and would have similar intervisibility to these sites. The majority of the SLA would be unaffected by the Proposed Varied Development. Given the extensive theoretical influence of Bettyhill, Armadale and Ackron wind farms, there would be no areas affected which would not already have intervisibility with wind turbines. Although the increase in turbines on the southern horizon could be perceptible in some areas, the cumulative developments establish this context as one occupied by turbines and therefore any noticeable changes to landscape characteristics would be unlikely as described for the Coastal Crofts and Small Farms LCT, Rocky Hills and Moorland LCT, Rounded Hills – Caithness and Sutherland LCT and associated parts of the Sweeping Moorland and Flows LCT in the tables above. Special Qualities Potential changes which would be perceived in this SLA as a result of the Proposed Varied Development, when considered in addition to the cumulative baseline situation would likely be small and barely discernible as described above. There is the potential that the increased number of turbines could be perceived in some views, for example from the area around Strathy which could influence elements of the 'Dramatically intricate Coastline and Forceful Sea', ' Moorland and Crofting Mosaic', and 'Big Skies and Extensive Views' Special Qualities. However, given the scale and context of existing development, this would be a very small effect.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low	
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Minor (not significant)	

Table 4.6.9: Ben Klibreck and Loch Choire SLA		
Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	None of the cumulative developments have direct effect on the SLA. Indirect effects take the form of distant wind turbines on the north eastern horizon. Often seen as two or three clusters, all of the cumulative developments would have some intervisibility with some of the upper summits and elevated ridges and slopes of the SLA. Bettyhill, Armadale, Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would have some tips visible on the lower slopes in the north-eastern part of the SLA as well. There would be little to no visibility from the interior lower elevations, south facing slopes or hidden glens. Given the distance and the wider context of the SLA, the cumulative developments would have little effect on the key characteristics of the SLA.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	Landscape Character There would be no direct change to this landscape. The ZTV indicates that intervisibility of the Proposed Varied Development would be patchy and largely limited the north eastern horizon from higher elevations and hill tops in combination with the existing wind turbine. The majority of the SLA would be unaffected. Apart from a small area where a few tips would be visible along the Loch Choire, the Proposed Varied Development would affect areas that would have intervisibility with the cumulative developments. Although the increase in turbine numbers would be perceptible in some areas, particularly as the turbines would appear closer than the cumulative developments, the presence of these would establish this context as one occupied by turbines. Therefore, any perceptible change to landscape characteristics would be unlikely as reflected by the exclusion of this area from the Detailed Study Area. Special Qualities Potential changes which would be perceived in the SLA as a result of the Proposed Varied Development, when considered in addition to the cumulative developments, would likely be very small as described above. The increased number of turbines could potentially be perceived in some views, which could influence some elements of the 'Distinctive Mountains', 'Secluded Glen with Network of Tracks', and 'Extensive Views from Peaks and Summits' Special Qualities. However, given the context of existing development and clear distant visual separation, this would be a very small effect, if any.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low	
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Minor (not significant)	

Table 4.6.10: Bens Griam and Loch nan Clar SLA		
Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	No cumulative developments directly affect this SLA. The cumulative ZTVs suggest that apart from a few summits and a few elevated north and north-east facing slopes intervisibility of cumulative developments would be limited within the SLA. Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would have the greatest influence on the SLA due to their proximity. Where visible, the these would generally appear in the middle to far distance to the north combining to give an impression of a single wind farm. Where visible Ackron, Limekiln and Baillie wind farms would appear as separate clusters to the northeast. Given the distance and clear separation, the cumulative developments would have a limited influence on the immediate character of the SLA.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	Landscape Character While there would be no direct change to this SLA, the Proposed Varied Development would affect small parts of the SLA not already affected by the cumulative developments. However, it would normally be perceived as a landscape feature to the north in combination with Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms. The Proposed Varied Development would appear closer and as a result at a somewhat larger scale than the Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farm turbines. This would likely result in a noticeable change to some parts of the SLA. However, this would have a limited effect on the key landscape characteristics due to the limited visibility across the wider SLA and the effects of the other nearby cumulative developments as described in the above for the associated parts of the Lone Mountains LCT, Rounded Hills – Caithness & Sutherland LCT and Sweeping Moorland and Flows LCT. Special Qualities Potential changes which would be perceived in the SLA as a result of the Proposed Varied Development, when considered in addition to the cumulative developments, could be noticeable but would have a limited effect given the cumulative developments and localised nature of intervisibility. There is the potential that the increased number of turbines could influence some elements of the 'Accessible Solitude' and 'Flow Country Views' Special Qualities. However, given the context of cumulative development, visual separation, and the fact that the majority of the SLA would be unaffected, this would be a localised effect.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low – Medium	
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Minor (not significant)	

Table 4.6.11: The Flow Country and Berriedale Coast SLA		
Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	None of the cumulative developments would have a direct effect on the SLA. Indirect effects would take the form of distant but distinct clusters of wind turbines on the north and north western horizon. All of the cumulative developments would have some intervisibility with summits and elevated ridgelines such as Ben Alisky, Morven, Maiden Pap and Scaraben. Cumulative developments with wider intervisibility would also be seen from upper northwest facing slopes of the SLA however, the majority of the SLA would be unaffected. There would be little to no visibility from the interior lower elevations, south facing slopes or coastline around Berriedale. Given the distance and the wider context of the SLA, the cumulative developments would have little effect on the key characteristics of the SLA.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	Landscape Character There would be no direct change to this landscape. The ZTV indicates that intervisibility of the Proposed Varied Development would be patchy and largely limited the north and north western horizon from higher elevations and hill tops in combination with cumulative developments. The majority of the SLA would be unaffected. Apart from a few small areas such as around Lochan Thulachan Chalybeate Springs and the northern slopes of Creag nan Geàrr and Cnoc Salislade, the Proposed Varied Development would largely only affect areas that already have intervisibility with cumulative developments. Although the increase in wind turbines on the eastern horizon would be perceptible in some areas, the distance and presence of cumulative development turbines establishes this context as one occupied by turbines. Therefore, any perceptible change to landscape characteristics would be unlikely, as reflected by the exclusion of this area from the Detailed Study Area. Special Qualities Potential changes which would be perceived in the SLA as a result of the Proposed Varied Development, when considered in addition to the cumulative developments, would likely be small and barely discernible, as described above. There is the potential that the increased number of turbines could be perceived in some views, which could influence some elements of the 'Distinctive Mountain and Moorland Skyline' and 'Exposed Peaks, Vast Openness and Intimate Glens' Special Qualities. However, given the context of cumulative developments and clear visual separation, and the fact that the majority of the SLA would be unaffected, this would be a small effect, if any.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low	
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Minor (not significant)	

Table 4.6.12: WLA 35: Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest		
Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	None of the cumulative developments would have a direct effect on the WLA. Indirect effects would take the form of distant wind turbines on the northern horizon. Often seen as two or three clusters, all of the cumulative developments have some intervisibility with some of the upper summits and elevated ridges and slopes of the WLA, particularly around Ben Klibreck and Ben Armine. ZTVs for Bettyhill, Armadale, Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms also show some tips would be theoretically visible on the lower slopes in the northern part of the WLA. There would be little to no visibility from the interior lower elevations, southern part of the WLA, or south facing slopes.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	There would be no direct change to this WLA. The Proposed Varied Development would be theoretically visible from a few areas towards the north of the WLA, including facing slopes and summits, some areas of elevated moorland and a few higher areas of ground further to the south. From higher points and facing slopes, it would be seen in combination with the cumulative developments to the north, appearing slightly larger and closer than turbines of Strathy Wood wind farm. From some areas it could appear to close some of the gaps between Strathy North, Strathy Wood, Armadale and Ackron wind farms. It is anticipated that the Proposed Varied Development would to lead to a perceptible increase in visible turbines from these areas, but given the large numbers of cumulative development turbines which would influence this part of the surrounding context , this is considered unlikely to lead to any noticeable change to wild land attributes or Key Qualities. From some lower areas, mostly towards the east of the WLA, the Proposed Varied Development would be theoretically visible in areas unaffected by any of the cumulative developments, thereby theoretically introducing wind turbines as a new feature within the context. However, from these areas the Proposed Varied Development would predominantly be seen as only a few distant tips in a context where existing forestry already affects the sense of wildness.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Negligible	
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Negligible (not significant)	

Table 4.6.13: WLA 38: Ben Hope – Ben Loyal		
Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	None of the cumulative developments have direct effect on this WLA. The vast majority of this WLA would have no theoretical visibility of any the cumulative developments. However, from high summit areas all of the cumulative developments would be present within the eastern landscape context. Strathy North, Ackron, Limekiln and Baillie wind farms would be seen in the mid to far distance along the coastal strip to the east with Strathy Wood slightly further inland and appearing slightly closer due to the larger turbines. Armadale and Bettyhill wind farms would appear in closer proximity on the eastern coast, as a separate, slightly disparate cluster. From parts of lower plateau areas to the west and north of Ben Hope all of the cumulative developments would be intermittently present in the eastern context, but would vary in their combinations when moving through the landscape, seen between hills to the east.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would appear within the eastern landscape context from a few areas including hill and mountain summits, eastern facing slopes, facing areas of the open northern plateau and some areas along the southern boundary. From higher areas, it would normally appear as part of the grouping comprising Strathy North, Baillie, Limekiln, Strathy Wood and Ackron wind farms, but would appear further inland than these, thereby increasing the surrounding context affected by wind farm development. The Proposed Varied Development would also appear somewhat closer. From lower areas, it would less frequently be seen in combination with a large number of cumulative developments, but would usually appear alongside Strathy Wood wind farm and would increase the perceived extent of this site. It could also lead to a slight increase in the extent of lower lying and plateau areas where wind turbines would be perceived in this eastern context which could lead to an increased sense of wind development in the surrounding landscape when moving through the WLA. It is therefore anticipated that, when viewed against the cumulative development baseline, the Proposed Varied Development would result in a perceptible reduction in the wild land attributes "*Absence of Modern Artefacts*" and "*Evidence of Contemporary Land Uses*", which could also lead to a small associated effect on "*Arresting or Inspiring Qualities / Sense of Awe*". However, this would be relatively localised. Overall, the addition of the Proposed Varied Development to the cumulative development baseline is anticipated to lead to small increased cumulative effect in some areas on the Key Qualities "*A striking, awe inspiring contrast between isolated mountains and open peatland*", and, *"Extensive, exposed peatland and lochs that are awe-inspiring in their simplicity and openness*" where it could increase the influence of detracting features outwith the WLA or increase the area within which these features could be influential. However, the great majority of the WLA would remain unaffected by wind farm development.	

Table 4.6.13: WLA 38: Ben Hope – Ben Loyal	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Generally Negligible but *locally* Minor (not significant)

Table 4.6.14: WLA 39: East Halladale Flows		
Cumulative Capacity Value	Low	
Cumulative Development Baseline	Existing and Proposed Cumulative Developments Theoretically Visible	Description of Cumulative Development Baseline
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	None of the cumulative developments would directly affect this WLA. However, as shown by the cumulative ZTVs (see Figures 4.7a – 4.7h (EIAR Volume 3a)), the cumulative development baseline would result in widespread influence of wind turbines throughout much of this WLA. Limekiln and Ackron wind farms would have the greatest influence across the north-western part of the WLA, being situated very close to the boundary. Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would be seen interrupting the western context from western and elevated areas across the WLA, with Strathy Wood wind farm appearing larger and closer. Bettyhill and Armadale wind farms would be more distant in this setting. Baillie wind farm affects more eastern parts of the WLA. Only a small, central part of the WLA would not be affected by any of the cumulative developments. With the inclusion of all the cumulative developments, it is considered likely that the wildness values of the WLA, particularly across its northern part, would be somewhat reduced compared to its current situation.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	High	
Nature of Change	There would be no direct change to the WLA. The Proposed Varied Development would feature in the western context alongside Strathy Wood wind farm. It would be at a similar scale to Strathy Wood wind farm and would therefore be likely to appear as a unified development. This would increase the extent of the surrounding context occupied by wind turbines and result in a fairly consistent barrier of wind turbines between the WLA and more distant westerly landscapes. It could also form an increased distraction from the focus of existing landmark mountains. This would contribute to a perceived reduction in scale of the apparently wild landscapes in this direction. However, this effect would already be reduced to some degree by the existing presence of Strathy Wood wind farm in the cumulative baseline. The proximity of Ackron wind farm to some of the areas where this effect would be perceived, would be likely to reduce the strength of baseline attributes somewhat, particularly in the north, to the degree that some areas may not be perceived as wild land. However, the influence of Ackron wind farm on areas further to the south and	

Table 4.6.14: WLA 39: East Halladale Flows	
	within the heart of the WLA is less and therefore, the effect of the addition of the Proposed Varied Development could be greater in these areas. Overall, it is considered that the Proposed Varied Development would lead to a perceptible reduction in the Wild Land Attributes "*Absence of Modern Artefacts*" and "*Evidence of Contemporary Land Use*" and possible slight reduction in the sense of "Perceived Naturalness" within the westerly context. These changes could also affect the perceptual attribute "*Arresting or Inspiring Qualities / Sense of Awe*". This is anticipated to lead to a small but not significant effect on the Key Qualities, "*An awe-inspiring simplicity of landscape at the broad scale, with strong horizontal emphasis, 'wide skies' and few foci*" and "*A remarkably open landscape with extensive visibility, meaning tall or high features in the distance are clearly visible*". However, the Key Quality "*A remote, discrete interior, with limited access and a strong sense of solitude*" is considered unlikely to be altered because the Proposed Varied Development is considered unlikely to have any greater effect on this Key Quality than the cumulative developments.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low
Cumulative Landscape Effect	Minor (not significant) overall but *locally* Minor – Moderate (not significant) in central and southern parts of the north western section.

TA 4.7: Cumulative Visual Assessment Tables

TECHNICAL APPENDIX 4.7: CUMULATIVE VISUAL ASSESSMENT TABLES

1 Introduction

1.1 Cumulative effects are those that occur as a result of the construction of more than one development of similar type within the landscape. In terms of visual amenity, cumulative effects may result where a number of cumulative developments combine within a particular view obtained from a receptor, increasing the prominence of wind turbines.

1.2 The cumulative visual assessment considers the predicted cumulative effect resulting from the addition of the Proposed Varied Development to the cumulative development baseline (refer to Figure 4.6a: 60 km Cumulative Search Area and Technical Appendix 4.5 (EIAR Volume 4)). For the purposes of the assessment, it is assumed that all cumulative developments would be constructed and operational.

1.3 In consultation with THC a total of seven cumulative developments were identified within this search area as most likely to combine with the Proposed Varied Development to result in cumulative landscape and visual effects (see Figure 4.6b (EIAR Volume 3a)). These are listed below. Further details on each are provided in EIAR Volume 4: Technical Appendix 4.5.

- Baillie wind farm (Operational);
- Bettyhill wind farm (Operational);
- Strathy North wind farm (Operational);
- Strathy Wood wind farm (Application);
- Limekiln wind farm (Consented);
- Ackron wind farm (Scoping); and
- Armadale wind farm (Scoping).

1.4 In line with best practice, scoping applications are not generally included in cumulative visual assessment due to the uncertainty surrounding how the proposal may evolve prior to the final submission. However, THC requested that Ackron and Armadale wind farms be included in the CLVIA for the Proposed Varied Development due to their proximity.

1.5 For the purposes of the assessment, it is assumed at all cumulative developments would be constructed and operational.

1.6 As the focus of the CLVIA is on identifying significant effects, receptors which were identified as experiencing a less than Minor visual effect (see EIAR Volume 4: Technical Appendix 4.4) were scoped out of the CLVIA as it is considered that these would not contribute to a significant cumulative effect. One settlement (Skelpick) was also not included as the Proposed Varied Development would not be visible with any of the cumulative developments. The following visual receptors are therefore included in the cumulative visual assessment (See Figure 4.5a and 4.5c):

Viewpoints

- VP1: Ben Griam Beg;
- VP2: Cnoc Riabhach;
- VP3: Loch nan Clach Geala;
- VP4: East of Melvich;
- VP5: Strathy;
- VP6: Bettyhill Viewpoint;
- VP7: A836 west of the B871;
- VP8: Sgor Chaonasaid;

- VP9: Creag na h-Iolaire;
- VP10: Beinn Ratha; and
- VP11: Forsinard.

Routes

- A836 – Between Tongue and the eastern edge of the Detailed Study Area (NC500 / Cycle Route 1);
- A836 – From Tongue south to the edge of the Detailed Study Area;
- A897;
- B871 (north);
- Scottish Hill Track 344: Strath Halladale (Trantlebeg) to Strathy;
- Scottish Hill Track 343 Halkirk to Forsinain or Braemore;
- Core Path SU04.02 – Torrisdale – Invernaver, Coast Route;
- Core Path SU04.04 – Clachan Burn (Bettyhill to Bettyhill Community Turbines Loop);
- Core Path SU04.05 – Kirtomy – Cnoc Mor circuit; and
- Core Path SU24.05 – Ben Tongue Circuit.

Settlements

- Strathy (north of the A836 and east of the River Strathy);
- Strathy (south of the A836 and east of the River Strathy);
- Strathy Point;
- Baligill;
- Lednagullin;
- Crask / Farr; and
- Modsary / Skerray.

Notes on Cumulative Assessment

1.7 Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development are identified as being either 'in combination' or 'in succession'.

1.8 Cumulative developments visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development refer to those that are visible within the observer's arc of vision with the Proposed Varied Development. That is, within the same 90° field of view as the Proposed Varied Development. All cumulative developments identified as visible in combination are not necessarily visible in combination with each other.

1.9 Cumulative developments visible in succession refer to those that are visible when the observer turns their head away from the Proposed Varied Development.

1.10 The cumulative development baseline for each VP is illustrated on Figures 4.8a - 4.21a (EIAR Volume 3b). These figures show cumulative developments that are both operational and at various stages of the planning process (i.e. some of the cumulative developments have not been consented). Cumulative ZTVs for each cumulative development are included as Figures 4.7a-h (EIAR Volume 3a).

1.11 For the purposes of the cumulative assessment predicted effects for construction are assumed to the same as for operation unless otherwise stated.

2 Viewpoints

Table 4.7.1: Viewpoint 1: Ben Griam Beg				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Viewpoint Location and Context	283185, 941167 (see Figures 4.8a.i-ii (EIAR Volume 3b)) This VP is located on Ben Griam Beg to the south of the site. It is representative of elevated nearby and middle distance views *obtained* from this direction.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Visible in combination		Visible in succession	
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln.	*Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	*Operational* None. *Consented* None.	*Application* None. *Scoping* None.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View Obtained from the Receptor	Elevated, 360˚ panoramic views across the landscape. To the north, turbines of Strathy Wood, Strathy North and Armadale wind farms would be fairly prominent in the mid-ground, whist Bettyhill and Ackron wind farms would be seen as separate clusters in the farther mid-ground to the northeast and northwest respectively. Limekiln and Baillie wind farms would be a perceptible, but distant, cluster to the north-east.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen in the nearer mid-ground. It would be seen in combination with the Strathy Wood, Strathy North and Armadale wind farm cluster. It would increase the field occupied further westward and would bring the cluster closer to the viewpoint. The overall prominence of turbines in the view would be increased, but from a part of the view obtained from the viewpoint where cumulative developments would be prominent. This would be unlikely to dominate or obstruct the view.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Medium			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Moderate (significant)			

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint 2: Cnoc Riabhach				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Viewpoint Location and Context	292003, 937695 (see Figures 4.9a.i-ii (EIAR Volume 3b)) This is an elevated hilltop from the north western edge of WLA36: Causeymire – Knockfin Flows to the southeast of the site. It is representative of elevated views obtained from this part of the WLA.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Visible in combination		Visible in succession	
	Operational Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented*	*Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	*Operational* None. *Consented* None.	*Application* None. *Scoping* None.

Table 4.7.2: Viewpoint 2: Cnoc Riabhach		
	Limekiln.	
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Elevated, views of the surrounding landscape. The cumulative developments appear as three clusters in the distance to the northwest through north views. The western cluster would comprise Strathy North, Strathy Wood, and Armadale wind farms. The eastern cluster would be made up of Limekiln and Ballie wind farms, while the middle one represents Ackron wind farm. These turbines would be seen in views northward towards the sea.	
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium	
Assessment of Cumulative Effect		
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would add to the existing turbines and extend the occupied field of view further westward. While the turbines would be seen in the context of the cumulative development clusters the increase would be noticeable, particularly as more of the turbine hubs and towers would be visible. Their proximity and associated visibility would also make them appear larger than others in the area. However, given the overall distance from the turbines, the increase would be unlikely to dominate the view.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low - Medium	
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor (not significant)	

Table 4.7.3: Viewpoint 3: Loch nan Clach Geala				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Viewpoint Location and Context	295343, 957116 (see Figures 4.10a.i-iii (EIAR Volume 3b)) This VP is found in WLA39: East Halladale Flows and is representative of views obtained from this part of the WLA.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Visible in combination		Visible in succession	
	Operational Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* None.	*Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	*Operational* None. *Consented* Limekiln.	*Application* None. *Scoping* None.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Cumulative developments would be noticeable from this location particularly in views to the west. Strathy Wood, Strathy North and Bettyhill wind farms would appear as a single continuous cluster in the mid-distance. Armadale wind farm would be seen slighting separate to the north of this cluster, partially screened by intervening landform. Tips of the Ackron and Limekiln wind farm turbines are theoretically visible but would likely be imperceptible due to intervening grasses and other low-lying vegetation.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				

Table 4.7.3: Viewpoint 3: Loch nan Clach Geala	
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would become part of the cluster of wind turbines to the west. It would be seen at the southern end of the grouping, slightly increasing the occupied field of view. While the increase would be perceptible, it would affect a part of the view characterised by wind development and would be unlikely to result in a significant adverse effect.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor (not significant)

Table 4.7.4: Viewpoint 4: East of Melvich				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Viewpoint Location and Context	291737, 964451 (see Figures 4.11a.i-ii (EIAR Volume 3b)) The VP is from the A836 to the northeast of the site. It is representative of middle to longer distance views obtained from this section of the route and the transition from Caithness to Sutherland.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Visible in combination		Visible in succession	
	Operational Strathy North. *Consented* None. *Application* Strathy Wood.	*Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	*Operational* None. *Consented* None.	*Application* None. *Scoping* None.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Ackron is very prominent in the foreground to the south, partially obscured by the rising landform. Strathy Wood and Strathy North wind farms appear as a cluster to the southwest in the middle distance partially obscured by landform. The blades of the Armadale wind farm turbines appear against the skyline to the west.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would form part of the Strathy Wood and Strathy North wind farm cluster. The turbines would appear in the middle distance beyond this cluster. The turbines would somewhat increase the occupied field of view; however, they would appear to be in scale with the turbines at Strathy Wood wind farm. While the increase in turbines could be perceptible, this would not increase the prominence due to the Ackron wind farm turbines which would be much closer and larger in the view.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor (not significant)			

Table 4.7.5: Viewpoint 5: Strathy				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Viewpoint Location and Context	284158, 965040 (see Figures 4.12a.i-ii (EIAR Volume 3b)) This VP is representative of worst-case scenario views obtained from Strathy and the surrounding area including the A836 (NC500), nearby dwellings and the surrounding hills and glens.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Visible in combination		Visible in succession	
	Consented Strathy North. *Consented* None.	*Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Armadale.	*Operational* None. *Consented* None.	*Application* None. *Scoping* None.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Wind energy development is noticeable from this settlement. The existing turbines form two clusters. The Armadale wind farm blades stand out against the skyline over the ridge to the west. Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms appear as a dense cluster to the south in the far mid-ground.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would form part of the Strathy Wood and Strathy North wind farm cluster. The turbines would appear beyond this cluster. While the addition of the turbines would be perceptible it would not increase the field of view occupied by turbines. They would appear to be in scale with the other turbines in the cluster. This would not increase the prominence due to the Armadale wind farm turbines which are much closer and larger in the view.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Negligible - Minor (not significant)			

Table 4.7.6: Viewpoint 6: Bettyhill Viewpoint				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Viewpoint Location and Context	274862, 961925 (see Figures 4.13a.i-ii (EIAR Volume 3b)) This VP is located at the marked Bettyhill viewpoint and car park on the A836 (N500) to the south of Kirtomy. It is representative of views obtained from sections of this road where the proposal would be visible to the northwest of the site.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Visible in combination		Visible in succession	
	Operational Bettyhill. *Consented* None.	*Application* None. *Scoping* None.	*Operational* None. *Consented* None.	*Application* None. *Scoping* None.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	This lower lying viewpoint offers funnelled views along glens. The Bettyhill wind farm turbines are prominent over the ridge against the skyline to the west.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low – Medium			

Table 4.7.6: Viewpoint 6: Bettyhill Viewpoint	
Assessment of Cumulative Effect	
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen in combination with Bettyhill wind farm. They would appear as distinctly separate developments and as such the turbines would increase the occupied field of view. The Proposed Varied Development turbines would appear at a greater distance than Bettyhill wind farm, largely as blades and some hubs over the intervening landform. This would be unlikely to result in an increase to the prominence of wind turbines as part of the view.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low - Medium
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor - Moderate (not significant)

Table 4.7.7: Viewpoint 7: A836 west of the B871				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Viewpoint Location and Context	269437, 957272 (see Figures 4.14ai-ii (EIAR Volume 3b)) This VP is found on the A836 (NC500) to the northwest of the proposal. It is representative of middle distance views obtained from this stretch of the A-road and potential worst case scenario views as travellers descend into Strathnaver from the west.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Visible in combination		Visible in succession	
	Operational	*Application*	*Operational*	*Application*
	Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* None.	Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Armadale.	None.	None.
			Consented None.	*Scoping* None.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would be noticeable across this upland plateau in views eastward. They would appear as a cluster of blades and tips interrupting the skyline slighting to the south of the alignment of the A836.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would appear in the context of the existing turbines but would appear as a separate cluster, extending the occupied field of view southward. Due to their positioning, the turbines would also appear at a larger scale. Given the distance and wider context, they would result in a perceptible increase in wind turbines, but they would not dominate or obstruct the view.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor - Moderate (not significant)			

Table 4.7.8: Viewpoint 8: Sgor Chaonasaid				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Viewpoint Location and Context	257961, 949822 (see Figure 415a (EIAR Volume 3b)) This VP is found on a summit within the Kyle of Tongue NSA. It is representative of elevated views obtained from the NSA and from the eastern side of *WLA 38: Ben Hope – Ben Loyal*.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Visible in combination		Visible in succession	
	Operational	*Application*	*Operational*	*Application*
	Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln.	Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	None.	None.
			Consented None.	*Scoping* None.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Wind farms are already a feature of the existing panoramic views, particularly westward. At this distance the cumulative developments would appear as two clusters, the larger southern cluster made up of Strathy North, Strathy Wood, Ackron, Baillie and Limekiln wind farms. These would largely be seen backclothed against the lower-lying moorland. Armadale and Bettyhill wind farms would form a more dispersed grouping sitting closer to the coast.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would add to the larger southern cluster, extending the occupied field of view further south and would bring the cluster closer to the viewpoint. While the turbines would appear at a larger scale than Strathy North wind farm, they would be at a similar scale to Strathy Wood wind farm which would help reduce the influence of the apparent difference. While it would increase the presence of wind farms in the view, the Proposed Varied Development would appear in a part of the wider context influenced by cumulative developments and at a distance that it would not increase the overall prominence of wind turbines in the view.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor (not significant)			

Table 4.7.9: Viewpoint 9: Creag na h-Iolaire				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Viewpoint Location and Context	267353, 928879 (see Figure 4.16a (EIAR Volume 3b)) This VP is found on an elevated point in WLA35: Ben Klibreck – Armine Forest to the southwest of the Proposed Varied Development. It is representative of elevated views obtained from this part of the WLA.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Visible in combination		Visible in succession	
	Operational	*Application*	*Operational*	*Application*
	Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented*	Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	None.	None.
			Consented None.	*Scoping* None.

Table 4.7.9: Viewpoint 9: Creag na h-Iolaire		
	Limekiln.	
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Wind farms are a feature within the panoramic views from this hilltop, albeit a distant one. The cumulative developments would be visible to the northeast at distances of approximately 30+ km. While they would be in the same general area they would largely be seen as distinct elements from each other.	
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium	
Assessment of Cumulative Effect		
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would appear in views to the northeast in the context of the cumulative developments. It would appear in the same area as Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms. As such, it would not extend the horizontal spread of turbines or introduce new elements into the view. Given the distance and order in which the turbines would appear they would be seen as a cohesive cluster.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low	
Cumulative Visual Effect	Negligible - Minor (not significant)	

Table 4.7.10: Viewpoint 10: Beinn Ratha				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Viewpoint Location and Context	294954, 960923 (see Figures 4.17a.i-iv (EIAR Volume 3b)) This VP is found near the cairn on Beinn Ratha in the northern part of WLA39: East Halladale Flows. It is representative of elevated views obtained from elevated parts of the WLA 39.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Visible in combination		Visible in succession	
	Operational Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* None.	*Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	*Operational* Baillie. *Consented* Limekiln.	*Application* None. *Scoping* None.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Wind farms are a feature in the landscape surrounding this viewpoint. Ackron and Limekiln wind farms would be particularly prominent in views to the west and east respectively. Other turbines would be visible in the middle and further distance. To the west, Strathy North, Strathy Wood, Bettyhill and Armadale wind farms would all be present. To the east, Baillie wind farm represents the start of numerous developments that dot the lowland farmland of Caithness, many of which are visible in clear weather.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would appear to the west and would extend the occupied field of view further southward. It would appear as part of the same cluster as Strathy Wood and Strathy North wind farms, It would appear at a similar scale to Strathy Wood wind farm, which it would overlap with from this viewpoint. As such, it would likely to be perceived as part of the same development. Given			

Table 4.7.10: Viewpoint 10: Beinn Ratha	
	the presence of turbines, many of which are much closer, the addition of the Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to increase the prominence of turbines in the view.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor (not significant)

Table 4.7.11: Viewpoint 11: Forsinard				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Viewpoint Location and Context	288982, 942360 (see Figures 4.18a.i-ii (EIAR Volume 3b)) Viewpoint near Forsinard Flows NNR at the junction of the A897 and Far North Line on the edge of the Bens Griam and Loch nan Clar SLA. It is representative of the views obtained by visitor and road / rail users to the southeast of the site.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Visible in combination		Visible in succession	
	Operational Strathy North. *Consented* None. *Application* Strathy Wood.	*Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	*Operational* None. *Consented* None.	*Application* None. *Scoping* None.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	While tips of Strathy Wood, Armadale, Ackron and Strathy North wind farms would all be theoretically visible from this viewpoint, grasses and foreground vegetation would largely obstruct these views.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen in views to the northwest as tips and blades over the ridgeline against the sky. Given that the cumulative developments would be largely screened from view, this may appear to introduce a new element into the view. However, given the scale and distance this would be unlikely to significantly distract from views.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low - Medium			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor – Moderate (not significant)			

3 Routes

Table 4.7.12: A836 – Between Tongue and the eastern edge of the Detailed Study Area (NC500 / Cycle Route 1)		
Cumulative Development Baseline		
Location and Context	This winding and undulating route is approximately 55 km and crosses the northern part of the detailed study area between Tongue and the edge of the detailed study area at Reay. It includes a small section of the A838 on its most western edge.	
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent	Occasional
	Operational None. *Consented* None. *Application* None. *Scoping* None.	*Operational* Baillie; Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	This route has occasional panoramic views to the North Sea and over dramatic bays. Views around Tongue focus on the Kyle of Tongue and the NSA. From Tongue to Bettyhill views are generally over simple landscapes with dramatic hills in the distance, particularly in views westward. As the route descends into and travels through Strathnaver views are restricted by mature vegetation. There are intermittent views of cumulative developments along this part of the route particularly from higher elevations when travelling eastward. Bettyhill, Strathy North are occasionally visible over the ridgeline to the east. Strathy Wood and Armadale wind farms would also occasionally be seen along this stretch. Bettyhill wind farm would be seen most often, while Armadale wind farm would often appear more prominent than other cumulative developments. For the most part Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would only be seen as tips over the ridgeline to the south-east. It is unlikely that these would be perceptible given the speed of travel along this route. Between Bettyhill and Melvich, the attention of travellers along this part of the route is largely drawn northward by the dramatic coastline and dynamic sea. Views southward are channelled by smaller glens or restricted by topography. The cumulative developments would be a regular and sometimes prominent feature along the route. Three in particular would be located in close proximity to the route. Bettyhill wind farm is prominent along the western stretch, while Armadale wind farm along the central portion and Ackron wind farm would be prominent along the eastern part. Other turbines would be visible in the middle to far distance including Limekiln and Baillie wind farms to the east and the cluster of Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms to the south of the central part of the route. From Melvich to the edge of the detailed study area, there are open views to the north and the sea draws traveller's attention. The cumulative developments would be a common feature in views to the south and east from this part of the route. Ackron wind farm would be particularly prominent along much of the route. From the eastern part of the route travelling towards Reay, Limekiln and Ballie wind farms would be visible against the skyline. Strathy North, Strathy Wood and Armadale wind farms would also be visible from higher points along the western part of the route.	
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low	

Table 4.7.12: A836 – Between Tongue and the eastern edge of the Detailed Study Area (NC500 / Cycle Route 1)	
Assessment of Cumulative Effect	
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be intermittently visible in the distance along elevated portions of the route when travelling eastward. Where visible they would range from tips to towers, hubs and blades seen over the ridgeline against the sky. For the vast majority of the route, the turbines would appear in views influenced by the cumulative developments, usually as part of the Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farm cluster. Ackron and Armadale wind farms would be prominent in the foreground of most views from the route reducing the influence of other more distant turbines. As such the Proposed Varied Development would not increase the influence of wind development along the route.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low
Cumulative Visual Effect	Negligible (Localised Minor) (not significant)

Table 4.7.13: A836 from Tongue south to the edge of the Detailed Study Area		
Cumulative Development Baseline		
Location and Context	This single track stretch of the A836 travels generally north south across open and remote moorland running parallel to Loch Loyal for much of its length.	
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent	Occasional
	Operational None. *Consented* None. *Application* None. *Scoping* None.	*Operational* Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Armadale; and Ackron.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Loch Loyal is a prominent feature in views particularly along the middle portion of the route when it runs alongside the loch. Rounded hills form a barrier to views to the west and mark the transition to the Ben Hope / Ben Loyal wild land area beyond. A number of wind turbines are visible in the distance from a stretch of the northern part of the route. These are seen as blades and tips over the ridgeline to the east. Occasionally hubs of the Armadale wind farm turbines would be visible.	
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium	
Assessment of Cumulative Effect		
Nature of Change	Theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development along this route would be focused in two areas, to the north and south of Loch Loyal. The turbine blades would be seen in the distance against the skyline to the east from the northern part of the route. Numerous other wind turbines would also be visible from this part of the route and as such this would not represent a new addition to the view. It would however extend the occupied field of view.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low	
Cumulative Visual Effect	Negligible (Localised Minor) (not significant)	

Table 4.7.14: A897				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Location and Context	This route runs north - south from the A836 east of Melvich south to the edge of the detailed study area near Kinbrace. It passes through Strath Halladale and Forsinard.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational None. *Consented* None.	*Application* None. *Scoping* None.	*Operational* Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln. *Application* Strathy Wood.	*Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	The main views along this north-south A-road are westward over Strath Halladale towards scattered residential properties. Westward views from the southern portion are focused on Ben Griams. Views within the central portion to northeast and west are over commercial forest. The Dounreay Overhead Line (OHL) features in eastward views along the northern part of the route where Connagill substation is also a prominent feature. While cumulative development visibility along this route is limited, Ackron wind farm would be prominent in views northward from the northern part of the route. More turbines would be visible from the route in the area around Meall a' Bhealaich, although these would generally be seen in the middle distance partially obscured by intervening landform.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Moderate			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be largely imperceptible along the majority of the route; however, some blades would be visible over the intervening ridge from Forsinard to Loch An Ruathail. These would be seen in the context of a number of cumulative developments in the middle distance from this part of the route. There would also be some theoretical intermittent visibility through the northern part of the route particularly around Golval where the Ackron wind farm turbines are already prominent in views.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Negligible (Localised Low)			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Negligible (Localised Minor) (not significant)			

Table 4.7.15: B871 (north)				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Viewpoint Location and Context	This route runs through Strathnaver from the A836 to the B873.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational None. *Consented*	*Application* None. *Scoping*	*Operational* Bettyhill. *Consented*	*Application* None. *Scoping*

Table 4.7.15: B871 (north)				
	None.	None.	None.	Armadale.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Views along this route are largely directed towards the north and south, depending on the direction of travel. Views towards the east and west are constrained by topography and mature vegetation on the strath floor. Scattered houses and farmsteads line the route and add variety to the views. Intermittent views of the tips of Armadale and Bettyhill wind farms would be obtained in some northward views particularly from the southern half of the route.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	Apart from a small stretch near the B873 where it would be seen with Armadale wind farm, the Proposed Varied Development would not be seen in combination with other developments along this route. It would however, be seen sequentially with both Armadale and Bettyhill wind farms. Where the Proposed Varied Development turbines are seen, a small number of blades would be visible over the ridge to the east. Along the northern part of the route mature vegetation would provide some screening of these views.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Negligible - Minor (not significant)			

Table 4.7.16: Scottish Hill Track 344: Strath Halladale (Trantlebeg) to Strathy				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Location and Context	This route connects Strath Halladale with Strathy. It passes through areas of commercial forest, felled areas, open moorland and near the operational Strathy North wind farm.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational Strathy North. *Consented* None.	*Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Armadale.	*Operational* Bettyhill. *Consented* Limekiln.	*Application* None. *Scoping* Ackron.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Ben Griam dominates views from the southern portion of the route. Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would be prominent in views along much of the route, particularly the northern section that passes between them. Both of these wind farms as well as Armadale wind farm, would be visible for the vast majority of the route. For part of the southern part of the route Bettyhill, Limekiln and Ackron wind farms would be visible as tips in the distance northward.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	While turbines would be a prominent feature along much this route, the Proposed Varied Development would be very prominent along the middle part of this route as it passes directly through the site. This would be even more so during construction particularly as traffic travels to and from site. Much of this central area would be heavily influenced by Strathy Wood wind farm. From the northern part of the route, the Proposed Varied Development would be seen beyond the			

Table 4.7.16: Scottish Hill Track 344: Strath Halladale (Trantlebeg) to Strathy	
	Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farm turbines with the Armadale wind farm turbines prominent to the west. From the southern part of the route the turbines would appear closer and larger in scale than others but in an area influenced by the cumulative developments.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Medium
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor – Moderate (not significant)

Table 4.7.17: Scottish Hill Track 343 Halkirk to Forsinain or Braemore				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Location and Context	This route is part of a larger walking route across the Flow Country. This particular section between Altnabrec and Forsinain weaves its way through a series of forest plantations many of which have seen recent felling.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational	*Application*	*Operational*	*Application*
	None.	None.	Baillie;	Strathy Wood.
	Consented	*Scoping*	Bettyhill; and	*Scoping*
	None.	None.	Strathy North.	Ackron; and
			Consented	Armadale.
			Limekiln.	
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Wider views of the surrounding landscape are generally more limited Sletill Hill and Ben Griam Beg in the distance add visual diversity. Cumulative developments are intermittently visible to the west and north of the route. Visibility ranges from distant tips visible over the ridgeline to hubs and blades visible in the middle distance.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	While the ZTV shows larges areas of potential visibility along this route, intervening mature forestry would likely screen many of these views. Where visible, the turbines would be seen in the distance over the horizon. They would almost always be seen in combination with cumulative developments. Although they may at times appear closer, they would not introduce new elements to the view.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor (not significant)			

Table 4.7.18: Core Path SU04.02 – Torrisdale – Invernaver, Coast Route				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Location and Context	This coastal path crossing the dunes of Torrisdale bay skirting around Druim Chuibhe connecting Invernaver and Torrisdale.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational	*Application*	*Operational*	*Application*
	None.	None.	Bettyhill.	None.
	Consented	*Scoping*	*Consented*	*Scoping*
	None.	None.	None.	Armadale.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Views from this coastal path are focused out to sea. Views inland (southward) are restricted by the cliffs. There would be intermittent views of Bettyhill and Armadale wind farms, largely as tips and blades over the ridgeline to the east.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The ZTV shows intermittent theoretical visibility along this path. While the Proposed Varied Development turbines would occasionally be seen in combination with cumulative developments they would be more often seen sequentially as walkers travelled southward towards Invernaver. Where visible the turbines would be seen as blades and tips over the ridgeline to the southeast.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Negligible - Minor (not significant)			

Table 4.7.19: Core Path SU04.04 – Clachan Burn (Bettyhill to Bettyhill Community Turbines Loop)				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Location and Context	This core path connects Bettyhill, the community turbines and the A836 near the turn off for Crask and Farr.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational	*Application*	*Operational*	*Application*
	Bettyhill.	None.	Strathy North.	Strathy Wood.
	Consented	*Scoping*	*Consented*	*Scoping*
	None.	None.	None.	Armadale.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Bettyhill wind farm turbines are prominent in views along this route as it provides access to the turbines. Armadale wind farm would be intermittently visible to the east from the northern parts of the route, where it would be seen as hubs and blades against the skyline. Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would occasionally be visible as distant over against the skyline. Other views are over rolling rough grazing and moorland. Rocky outcrops punctuate the landscape. Loch Mor features in views as the western part of the route passes close to it.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low			

Table 4.7.19: Core Path SU04.04 – Clachan Burn (Bettyhill to Bettyhill Community Turbines Loop)	
Assessment of Cumulative Effect	
Nature of Change	The ZTV shows theoretical visibility of the Proposed Varied Development along much of this core path. However, the vast majority of this area is already influenced by the Bettyhill wind farm turbines which are much closer and prominent. Where visible the Proposed Varied Development turbines would appear over the ridgeline to the southeast. Visibility would range from a few blades and tips to a larger number of turbines from higher elevations.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor (not significant)

Table 4.7.20: Core Path SU04.05 – Kirtomy – Cnoc Mor Circuit				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Location and Context	This route follows tracks leading up to radio mast across moorland from Kirtomy and the A836.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational Bettyhill. *Consented* None.	*Application* None. *Scoping* Armadale.	*Operational* Baillie; and Strathy North. *Consented* Limekiln.	*Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	The mast on Cnoc Mor is prominent along the route particularly on the approach from the A836. On the approach from Kirtomy the sea, farms and coast draw viewers' attention to the north and west. From the highest point of the route at the mast there are panoramic views both out to sea and inland. A small OHL connecting to the mast is a regular feature in views along the route. Cumulative developments would be prominent from this core path. Armadale wind farm in particular would be very prominent along the north / south stretch from the mast to the A836. Beyond this, in the far middle distance, the cluster of Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would be visible. Bettyhill wind farm can be seen in the midground views to the southwest.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen as an extension to the cluster of Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms. It would largely appear in scale with these. It would appear well beyond the Armadale wind farm turbines which would be very prominent from this route in views southward.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor (not significant)			

Table 4.7.21: Core Path SU24.05 – Ben Tongue Circuit				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Location and Context	This route leads up to Ben Tongue to the east of Tongue from the A836.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational Bettyhill; and Strathy North. *Consented* None.	*Application* Strathy Wood. *Scoping* Ackron; and Armadale.	*Operational* Baillie. *Consented* Limekiln.	*Application* None. *Scoping* None.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	The route summit offers panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. While the mast is one of the more prominent features at the top, the Kyle of Tongue (and NSA) and the Ben Hope Ben Loyal range are prominent in views to the south and west. From the majority of the route cumulative developments would be seen in the distance to the east. The turbines would largely be seen as a blades and tips over distant landform. They would generally appear as two distinct groupings.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Medium			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development turbines would be seen in the distance to the southeast. The blades and hubs would be seen against the skyline in the context of the much wider view including numerous other turbines. They would appear to be similar in scale to these other developments. They would largely be seen as a third grouping, extending the occupied field of view further southward. While they would extend the horizontal spread of turbines, they would appear in views influenced by cumulative developments and thus not introduce new features to views along the route.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor (not significant)			

4 Settlements

Table 4.7.22: Strathy (north of the A836 and east of the River Strathy)				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Location and Context	Orientation of dwellings, other buildings and views is mixed, although most have clear views across the lower lying fields at the base of the strath to the other parts of Strathy. View northward to the sea are limited due to variations in the landform.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational	*Application*	*Operational*	*Application*
	Strathy North.	Strathy Wood.	Bettyhill.	None.
	Consented	*Scoping*	*Consented*	*Scoping*
	None.	Armadale.	None.	Ackron.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Cumulative developments would be fairly prominent feature within the landscape surrounding this settlement cluster. Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would form a dense cluster to the south, while the Armadale wind farm turbine blades would stand out against the skyline over the ridge to the west.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low-Medium			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be visible from the majority of the settlement, although intervening buildings and vegetation could partially screen some views. The turbines would form part of the Strathy Wood and Strathy North wind farm cluster appearing beyond the existing cluster. While the addition of the turbines would be perceptible it would not increase the field of view occupied by turbines. They would appear as an extension to the cluster of Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farm turbines. Given the distance and limited visibility of the turbines they appear to be in scale with the turbines in the cluster. This would not increase the prominence due to the Armadale wind farm turbines which would be much closer and larger in the view.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor (not significant)			

Table 4.7.23: Strathy (south of the A836 and east of the River Strathy)				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Location and Context	Collection of dwellings and farms south of the A836 with views largely oriented to the east and west over fields and moorland beyond. Smaller watercourses leading to the River Strathy are lined by low rise vegetation and scrub. Distant views are largely contained within the strath by the surrounding landform. OHL can also be seen crossing the landscape from east to west.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational	*Application*	*Operational*	*Application*
	Strathy North.	Strathy Wood.	None.	None.
	Consented	*Scoping*	*Consented*	*Scoping*
	None.	Armadale.	None.	None.

Table 4.7.23: Strathy (south of the A836 and east of the River Strathy)		
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Cumulative developments would be a fairly prominent feature within the landscape surrounding this settlement cluster. Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would form a dense cluster to the south, while the Armadale wind farm turbine blades would stand out against the skyline over the ridge to the west.	
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low - Medium	
Assessment of Cumulative Effect		
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be visible from the majority of the settlement, although intervening buildings and vegetation may partially screen some views. The turbines would appear beyond and form part of the Strathy Wood and Strathy North wind farm cluster. While the addition of the turbines would be perceptible it would not increase the field of view occupied by turbines. They would appear as an extension to the cluster of Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farm turbines. Given the distance and limited visibility of the turbines they appear to be in scale with the other turbines in the cluster. This would not increase the prominence due to the Armadale wind farm turbines which are much closer and larger in the view.	
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low	
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor (not significant)	

Table 4.7.24: Strathy Point				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Location and Context	Dwellings of mixed orientation, main views towards the east over the water.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational	*Application*	*Operational*	*Application*
	Baillie; and	Strathy Wood.	Bettyhill.	None.
	Strathy North.	*Scoping*	*Consented*	*Scoping*
	Consented	Ackron; and	None.	None.
	Limekiln.	Armadale.		
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Numerous cumulative developments would be visible from the cluster of properties leading up to Strathy Point. Armadale wind farm would be prominent from much of area and is the nearest of the cumulative developments. Further to the south Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms would appear as a cluster in the middle distance.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen beyond and as an extension to the cluster of Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farm turbines. While it would increase the number of turbines visible it would not affect a new part of views and given its close association with the cumulative development turbines it would be unlikely to increase the prominence of turbines in the area.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low			

Table 4.7.24: Strathy Point	
Cumulative Visual Effect	Minor (not significant)

Table 4.7.25: Baligill				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Location and Context	A loose grouping of farmsteads with views across gently rolling fields and moorland. The sea provides the contrast to the surrounding landscape and draws viewers' attention northward.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational	*Application*	*Operational*	*Application*
	Baillie;	Strathy Wood.	None.	None.
	Bettyhill; and	*Scoping*	*Consented*	*Scoping*
	Strathy North.	Ackron; and	None.	None.
	Consented	Armadale.		
	Limekiln.			
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Numerous wind energy developments would be visible from this cluster of properties. Armadale and Ackron wind farms, to the west and southeast respectively, would be the nearest and most visible of the cumulative sites. Others would appear in the middle to far distance including the cluster of Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farms to the south.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen beyond and as an extension to the cluster of Strathy North and Strathy Wood wind farm turbines. While it would increase the number of turbines visible it would not affect a new part of views and given its close association with the other turbines and presence of closer sites, it would be unlikely to increase the prominence of turbines in the area.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Negligible - Minor (not significant)			

Table 4.7.26: Lednagullin				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Location and Context	Farmsteads of mixed orientation, largely overlooking Armadale Bay. Bus stop, post box and telephone box are all located at the turn off from the A836. Views are drawn to the sea to the north. Views in other directions are over fields and moorland. Distant views are largely constrained by mid-distance landform.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational	*Application*	*Operational*	*Application*
	Strathy North.	Strathy Wood.	Bettyhill.	None.
	Consented	*Scoping*	*Consented*	*Scoping*
	None.	Armadale.	None.	None.

Table 4.7.26: Lednagullin	
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	Armadale wind farm would be prominent in views southward sitting in front of and on sloping landform. Further in the distance Strathy North wind farm is visible as tips and blades, with the majority of the turbines screened by landform. Bettyhill wind farm is similarly obscured with occasional views of blade tips.
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low
Assessment of Cumulative Effect	
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would be seen beyond Armadale wind farm as an extension to Strathy North wind farm. While it would increase the number of turbines visible it would not affect a new part of views and given its close association with the other turbines and the prominence of Armadale wind farm, it would be unlikely to increase the prominence of turbines in the area.
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low
Cumulative Visual Effect	Negligible - Minor (not significant)

Table 4.7.27: Crask / Farr				
Cumulative Development Baseline				
Location and Context	Collection of farmsteads with northward views overlooking fields towards Farr Bay. Views westward are over a rolling rough grazing landscape with Ben Hope and Ben Loyal in the distance. Views eastward restricted by topography.			
Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development	Frequent		Occasional	
	Operational	*Application*	*Operational*	*Application*
	Bettyhill.	None.	None.	None.
	Consented	*Scoping*	*Consented*	*Scoping*
	None.	None.	None.	Armadale.
Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor	The Bettyhill wind farm is clearly visible in views to the southeast. The turbines stand separate along the ridge. The Armadale wind farm turbines would occasionally be visible to the east partially obscured by landform. They would appear as hubs and blades between the rolling topography.			
Sensitivity to Additional Change	Low - Medium			
Assessment of Cumulative Effect				
Nature of Change	The Proposed Varied Development would appear in the middle distance beyond Bettyhill wind farm. Given the visual separation they would appear as distinctly separate developments. While the Proposed Varied Development would not introduce a new feature to this part of the view, it would extend the field of view occupied by turbines. However, given the distance and scale, particularly when seen with Bettyhill and Armadale wind farms, the Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to increase the prominence of wind energy development in the area.			
Cumulative Magnitude of Change	Low - Medium			
Cumulative Visual Effect	Negligible - Minor (not significant)			

<table>
<tr><th colspan="4">Table 4.7.28: Modsary / Skerray</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Cumulative Development Baseline</td></tr>
<tr><td>Location and Context</td><td colspan="3">Dispersed farmsteads with mixed orientation. Views are largely over rough grazing, moorland and rocky outcrops. While distant views are largely contained by surrounding topography, Ben Hope and Ben Loyal are intermittently visible to the southwest and the sea is intermittently visible to the north.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Cumulative developments theoretically visible in combination with the Proposed Varied Development</td><td colspan="2">Frequent</td><td>Occasional</td></tr>
<tr><td><u>Operational</u>
Bettyhill; and
Strathy North.
<u>Consented</u>
None.

<u>Application</u>
Strathy Wood.
<u>Scoping</u>
Armadale.</td><td><u>Operational</u>
None.
<u>Consented</u>
None.

<u>Application</u>
None.
<u>Scoping</u>
None.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Description of Cumulative Development Baseline View obtained from the Receptor</td><td colspan="3">Cumulative developments would be intermittently visible from this grouping. Where visible they would be seen as blades and tips interrupting the skyline to the east. The rolling nature of the surrounding topography means that the visibility of turbines would vary across the area.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Sensitivity to Additional Change</td><td colspan="3">Medium</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Assessment of Cumulative Effect</td></tr>
<tr><td>Nature of Change</td><td colspan="3">Where visible, the Proposed Varied Development blades hubs and towers would be visible over ridgeline towards the southeast against the skyline, similarly to the other cumulative developments. However, given the distance and scale, particularly when seen with Bettyhill and Armadale wind farms, the Proposed Varied Development would be unlikely to increase the prominence of wind turbines in the area.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cumulative Magnitude of Change</td><td colspan="3">Low</td></tr>
<tr><td>Cumulative Visual Effect</td><td colspan="3">Negligible - Minor (not significant)</td></tr>
</table>

Strathy South Wind Farm 2020
Section 36C Application - EIAR
Technical Appendix: 4.7
Cumulative Visual Assessment Tables