

Technical Appendix 3.1: Landscape Character Assessment Review

Introduction

In terms of assessing any potential change to landscape effects, the relevant design change of the 29 Turbine Proposed Development is the removal of seven turbines from the 36 Turbine Scheme presented in the EIA Report (April 2020) along with short sections of track and hardstanding associated with these seven turbines alone.

A review of the implications arising from the removal of these seven turbines for each National Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Cairngorm National Park (CNP) Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the detailed study area is provided in Table 1. The effect ratings used are as described in the methodology for the Landscape Assessment in the EIA Report (April 2020) (Volume 2, Chapter 7, Section 7.4).

Assessment of Designated and Protected Landscapes is detailed in Technical Appendix 3.2.

Comparison of Landscape Effects for NatureScot National Landscape Character Types

Table 1: Comparison of Landscape Effects for Landscape Character

Viewpoint	Effect Rating in EIA Report (36 Turbine Scheme)	Potential Changes to Landscape Effects	Effect Rating for 29 Turbine Proposed Development	Change to Effect Rating
LCT 225 – Broad Steep-sided Glen (OWESG LCA LN19)	Negligible (not significant)	Theoretical intervisibility with the seven turbines proposed for removal is minimal within this LCT. Therefore the 29 Turbine Proposed Development is considered unlikely to lead to any perceptible change to the effect on landscape character from the 36 Turbine Scheme.	Negligible (not significant)	No Change
LCT 85 – Isolated Mountain Plateau	Minor (not significant) for the Creag Meagaidh part of the LCT, and Negligible for the Ardverikie Hills part of the LCT	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the intensity of the turbines intervisible from mountain summit areas in the northern landscape context compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme. It would remove some of the turbines which appear slightly larger diminishing their presence. However, at this distance and given the number of turbines present within the wider context, removal of seven turbines is considered unlikely to lead to a change to the effect on landscape character identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme.	Minor (not significant) for the Creag Meagaidh part of the LCT, and Negligible for the Ardverikie Hills part of the LCT	No Change (with reduced influence of turbines)

Viewpoint	Effect Rating in EIA Report (36 Turbine Scheme)	Potential Changes to Landscape Effects	Effect Rating for 29 Turbine Proposed Development	Change to Effect Rating
LCT 222 – Rocky Moorland Plateau – Inverness (OWESG LCA LN10)	Negligible (not significant)	Theoretical intervisibility with the seven turbines proposed for removal is minimal within this LCT. Therefore the 29 Turbine Proposed Development is considered unlikely to lead to any perceptible change to the effect on landscape character identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme.	Negligible (not significant)	No Change
LCT 221 – Rolling Uplands – Inverness (OWESG LCA LN6)	Minor (not significant), locally Moderate (significant)	The removal of the seven turbines as part of the 29 Turbine proposed Development is unlikely to lead to any perceptible change to the effect on landscape character identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme.	Minor (not significant), locally Moderate (significant)	No Change
LCT 220 – Rugged Massif – Inverness (OWESG LCA LN5)	Negligible (not significant)	Theoretical intervisibility with the seven turbines proposed for removal is minimal within this LCT. Therefore the 29 Turbine Proposed Development is considered unlikely to lead to any perceptible change to the effect on landscape character identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme.	Negligible (not significant)	No Change
LCT 238 – Rugged Massif – Lochaber	Minor – Moderate (not significant)	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the intervisibility with the turbines within the LCT, particularly in Glen Roy / Glen Spey where low level visibility would be largely eliminated, diminishing the potential presence of turbines and human intervention within these areas compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme.	Minor (not significant)	Reduction
LCT 87 – Small Craggy Knolls and Hills	Negligible (not significant)	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the intervisibility with the turbines within the LCT. It would also reduce the intensity of turbines in the western cluster and remove some of the turbines which appear slightly larger and closer to the LCT, further diminishing their presence compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme.	Negligible (not significant)	No Change (with reduced influence of turbines)
LCT 236 – Smooth Moorland Ridges (OWESG LCA LN4)	Minor (not significant)	Theoretical intervisibility with the seven turbines proposed for removal is minimal within this LCT. Therefore the 29 Turbine Proposed Development is considered unlikely to lead to any perceptible change to the effect on landscape character from that identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme.	Minor (not significant)	No Change

Viewpoint	Effect Rating in EIA Report (36 Turbine Scheme)	Potential Changes to Landscape Effects	Effect Rating for 29 Turbine Proposed Development	Change to Effect Rating
LCT 86 – Smooth Rounded Hills – Badenoch and Strathspey	Negligible (not significant)	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the intervisibility with the turbines within the LCT. It would also reduce the intensity of turbines in the western cluster and remove some of the turbines which appear slightly larger and closer to the LCT, further diminishing their presence compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme.	Negligible (not significant)	No Change (with reduced influence of turbines)
LCT 231 – Upland Glen – Inverness	Minor - Moderate (not significant)	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would remove the vast majority of theoretical intervisibility from this LCT compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme. Intervisibility with the remaining turbines would be very limited and would be experienced in the context of the Stronelaig turbines, reducing their potential influence within the LCT.	Negligible (not significant)	Reduction
Ardverkie Hills LCA	Minor (not significant)	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the intervisibility with the turbines within the LCT compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme. It would reduce the intensity of the western cluster diminishing its influence on the LCT. However, despite these improvements, given the distance this is considered unlikely to lead to any perceptible change to the effect on landscape character identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme.	Minor (not significant)	No Change (with reduced influence of turbines)
The Monadhliath – South Monadhliath LCA	Minor (not significant), locally Moderate (significant)	The removal of Turbine 29 would reduce the prominence of turbines in the neighbouring landscape and improve the coherence with Stronelaig compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme. However, the western ridgeline would still be influenced by the blades of the eastern cluster. As such no change to the effect on landscape character identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme is anticipated.	Minor (not significant), locally Moderate (significant)	No Change (with reduced influence of turbines)
The Southern Hills – South Western Glens LCA	Negligible (not significant)	Theoretical intervisibility with the seven turbines proposed for removal is minimal within this LCT. Therefore the 29 Turbine Proposed Development is considered unlikely to lead to any perceptible change to the effect on landscape character identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme.	Negligible (not significant)	No Change

Viewpoint	Effect Rating in EIA Report (36 Turbine Scheme)	Potential Changes to Landscape Effects	Effect Rating for 29 Turbine Proposed Development	Change to Effect Rating
Ardverikie: Glen Shirra LCA	Minor (not significant)	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the intervisibility with the turbines within the LCT compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme. It would also reduce the intensity of turbines in the western cluster and remove some of the turbines which appear slightly larger and closer to the LCT, further diminishing their presence. However, this is considered unlikely to lead to any perceptible change to the effect on landscape character identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme.	Minor (not significant)	No Change (with reduced influence of turbines)
Ardverikie: Pattack Glen / Strath Mashie LCA	Negligible (not significant)	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the intervisibility with the turbines within the LCT compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme. It would reduce the intensity of the western cluster diminishing its influence on the LCT. However, this is considered unlikely to lead to any perceptible change to the effect on landscape character identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme, particularly given the distance.	Negligible (not significant)	No Change (with reduced influence of turbines)
Càthar Mòr LCA	Negligible (not significant)	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the intervisibility with the turbines within the LCT compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme. However, this is considered unlikely to lead to any perceptible change to the effect on landscape character, particularly given the distance.	Negligible (not significant)	No Change (with reduced influence of turbines)
Glen Truim – Upper Glen and Dalwhinnie LCA	Negligible (not significant)	Theoretical intervisibility with the seven turbines proposed for removal is minimal within this LCT. Therefore the 29 Turbine Proposed Development is considered unlikely to lead to any perceptible change to the effect on landscape character identified for the 36 Turbine Scheme.	Negligible (not significant)	No Change
Spey Headwaters – Spey Dam LCA	Minor (not significant)	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the intervisibility with the turbines within the LCT compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme. It would also reduce the intensity of turbines in the western cluster, remove some of the turbines which appear slightly larger and closer to the LCT and improve the sense of containment of the development within the landform 'bowl'.	Negligible-Minor (not significant)	Reduction

Viewpoint	Effect Rating in EIA Report (36 Turbine Scheme)	Potential Changes to Landscape Effects	Effect Rating for 29 Turbine Proposed Development	Change to Effect Rating
Spey Headwaters – Upper Glen of the Spey LCA	Minor – Moderate (not significant)	The 29 Turbine Proposed Development would reduce the intervisibility with the turbines within the LCT compared to the 36 Turbine Scheme. It would also reduce the intensity of turbines in the western cluster, remove some of the turbines which appear slightly larger and closer to the LCT and improve the sense of containment of the development within the landform 'bowl'.	Negligible-Minor (not significant)	Reduction